Correspondence 1896
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller
Coe College

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Sarah Orne Jewett Press
1296 30th ST
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

Jewett gradually developed the practice of writing an "a" with a long tail to represent "and." In these transcriptions, I present them as "and" without comment.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Translations

Several letters in this volume were composed in French. I have included both translations and transcriptions of the French.

With the assistance of Jeannine Hammond, Coe College Professor of French, emerita, I have transcribed and translated these letters using Google Translate. While Professor Hammond's aid was obviously necessary for correcting my crude translations, her sharp eyes and fluency were essential when making out the handwriting of Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc, especially in cross-written passages.

Mme. Blanc sometimes abbreviates "pour" to "pr" and "vous" to "vs." Such instances in her letters are rendered as "pour" and "vous."

Internet Access to this Text

The Internet Archive, and

the Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html

Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Family

Mary Rice (O.P.) Jewett (1847-1930). Jewett's older sister.

Sarah Orne Jewett's nicknames in these letters are **Sadie, Pin or Pinny, and P.L, for Pinny Lawson.**

Theodore (Thiddy, Stubby and variations) **Jewett Eastman** (1879-1831) is mentioned often, the orphaned son of the youngest Jewett sister, Caroline Eastman.

Friends

Thomas Bailey (Linnet, T.B. or T.B.A.) Aldrich: (1836-1907), author and editor of *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett also wrote often to his wife, **Lilian Woodman Aldrich** (1841-1927).

Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc (1840-1907), author, editor and translator of American authors, including Jewett. She published as **Th. Bentzon**.

Dr. Robert (Brother Robert) Collyer (1823-1912), an English-born Unitarian clergyman working in New York City. He was a frequent visitor in the homes of both Fields and Jewett.

Louisa (Loulie) Loring Dresel (1864-1958), painter, photographer, traveler, a neighbor of Annie Fields.

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), social worker, author and Jewett's domestic partner. Jewett often refers to her as **A.F. and T.L.** and addresses her with variations on **Fuff and Mouse**.

Louise Imogen Guiney (1861-1920), poet, essayist and editor.

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly*, an early mentor to Jewett.

Henry Lille Pierce (1825- 17 December 1896), businessman and politician. The Aldriches, along with Jewett and Annie Fields, were regular guests on the steam yacht, *Hermione*, which Pierce owned during the last decade of his life. Though none of his correspondence appears in this volume, he is a prominent presence during the first 3 months of 1896.

Sarah de St. Prix Wyman Whitman: (1842-1904), American artist and designer of several Jewett book covers. She appears often in these letters as **S.W.**

SY Hermione

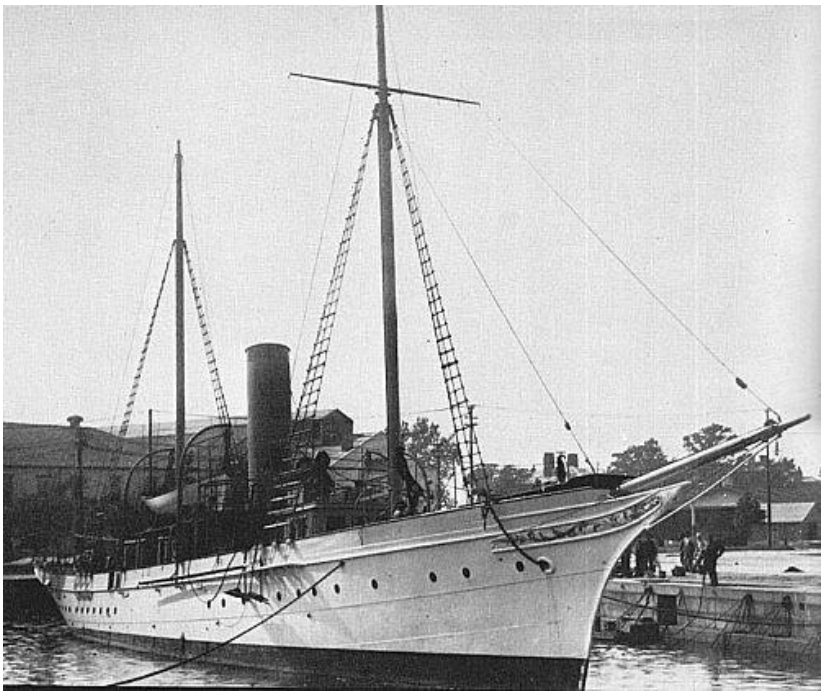

Photo of the *Hermion*e from ClydeBuilt Database.

The following description of the *Hermione* appears in *The Marine Engineer* (July 1, 1891) p. 206. The yacht was built in Paisley, Scotland.

Hermione.—On June 6th, the steam yacht *Hermione*, recently launched by Messrs. Fleming & Ferguson, shipbuilders, Paisley, went down the river for speed trial, and on the measured mile attained a speed of 15 knots per hour, proving her to be considerably the fastest yacht on the Clyde. The *Hermione*, which has been built to the order of Messrs. Allan, of the Allan Line of steamships, is a finely-modelled steel steam yacht of 320 tons yacht measurement. Her dimensions are 145 ft. by 22 ft. 7 in. by 12 ft. 9 in. Her saloons and owners' state-rooms, which are below, are elaborately fitted in combinations of walnut, oak, olive, and mahogany, her side lights being covered with stained-glass windows. On deck she has smoking-room and chart-room fitted up in mahogany. The *Hermione* is schooner rigged, has steam windlass, steam and hand-steering gears, steam launch, distiller, Sir William Thomson's compasses and sounding machine, and all the latest and most improved yacht fittings. Her engines are the builders' patent improved quadruple type, and indicated 1,080 H.P. on trial. The *Hermione* has been built to design by, and under the superintendence of, Mr. G. L. Watson, who, with the owners, is greatly pleased with the splendid results obtained at trial.

According to *The Yacht Photography of J. S. Johnston*, the *Hermione* was sold to the United States Navy in 1898, converted into a gunboat, and renamed the Hawk; she then provided service in the Spanish-American War. See also: The Library of Congress.

Introduction to Letters of 1896

Sarah Orne Jewett began 1896 by joining a party of friends for a cruise of the Caribbean. Departing from Boston, MA, by train on 7 January, Jewett and Annie Adams Fields joined yachtsman Henry Lillie Pierce in Brunswick, his other guests, Lilian and Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and their servant, Bridget, and the crew of the steam yacht *Hermione*.

They traveled by train to Florida, with stops in New York City and Brunswick, Georgia, before departing from Jupiter Inlet, Florida. Though they hoped to sail as far as the Windward Islands, the weather was uncooperative, and their itinerary was limited to the Bahamas, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with a brief stop in Puerto Rico. They returned to Florida on 2 March and debarked in St. Augustine on 3 March.

After returning to shore, Jewett and Fields were spent; they rested in Florida until 16 March. By the time they reached New York City on 17 March, Jewett had contracted a severe cold and was unable to travel further. She returned home sometime before 27 March.

With the letters covering this tour are excerpts from Annie Adams Fields, *Diary of a West Indian Island Tour*. For a fuller account, see *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive.

Annie Adams Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney

148 Charles St.
January 4th 1896

My very dear Louise:

This is another good=bye!* Please find [six *?*] concert tickets enclosed -- to use or to give as you think best, from time to time.

Every New year good wish, again to you and yours! I shall take the little book and "The Recruit"* away with me.

[Affectionately *?*] from us both
Annie Fields
--- S. O. J. ---

Notes

good=bye: Fields sometimes doubled her hyphens.

recruit: Guiney's poem, "The Recruit," was collected in *The Martyrs' Idyl and Shorter Poems* (1899). Which "little" book Fields took with her on the Caribbean cruise of 1896 is not yet known. Candidates could include: *A Little English Gallery* (1894), *Lover's Saint Ruth's and Three other Tales* (1895), and *Nine Sonnets Written at Oxford* (1895). In Eva Mabel Tenison's biography of 1923, she notes in the bibliography that the book of sonnets was privately printed by Copeland and Day for their friends at Christmas 1895. Fields would have been a likely recipient of such a book. However, taking it on the 1896 cruise would have been unfortunate. See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Dinand Library of Holy Cross College in the collection of materials of Louise Imogen Guiney, Box: SC007-GUIN-004, Folder: 40.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*8 January 1896, from New York City*]*
Wednesday Morning

Dear Mary,

We shall probably be two or three days at Brunswick as Mr. Pierce has had to take his stormy way down the coast so you can write once there and once to Nassau New Providence Bahamas. Then if you do not hear from Mr. Talbot B. Aldrich* 148 State St. just send your letters to his care at any time

[*Page 2*]

as he will forward them but Lilian says he is going to let you know as often as she telegraphs, which she means to do often. I am going to send word to Talbot to send you a cable code* so that you can use it in case you want to send a telegram. I meant to get one in Boston.

[*Page 3*]

-- We had a comfortable journey getting in on time and we met the little snow storm at Sharon* so that there was no [*unrecognized word*]. The Linnet & Lilian and [Mrs Richardson *written over words*]* are so [rich *?*] and full of welcomes. I couldn't find out much from them about the Smith house except that the [don *?*] felt he

[*Page 4*]

would go down shooting and he went into the house and made a nice fire and when he came back the house was flat.* The Linnet had been at the Player's Club* to dinner and came in so pleasant and wanted a drink of water & Lilian thought it might not be good water. I cant die young like Keats* says the Linnet! and he was so funny with

[*Page 5*]

many remarks which I cant remember. A. F. was so funny coming on the train. "Lily Phelps* wrote me such a letter" she said. "How can you leave home now with this danger of bombardment:* ^think of^ a shell ~~might~~ bursting in your house !!" [*two deleted words*] "Do tell Theodore" said Aunt Annie with such a grin. "I had thought of other reasons for staying at

[*Page 6*]

home but that had not occurred to me." She told Mr. Aldrich of the warning and he said "Why I must say that's the time I should want to leave home!" --

It is a nice day here, and we have just had our breakfast and had Mrs. Leland Stanford pointed out by a pleasant waiter. I was so glad to get your dear letter. I had Miss Pike* on my mind ^a day or two ago^ but I forgot her. I feel better today now that the start is over and the snow which struck in a good deal, but I still wish that I were just coming back instead of just going -- I hate to leave home more and more -- There are those who are very cheerful and have put their many cares behind them Mary and seem to have no cold

[*Page 7*]

except a poor cough at very rare intervals, and they spoke of fresh [cornbreads *?*] at breakfast and seemed to think that they would be very nice .. I telegraphed to Susy Travers* who answered that she couldn't come to lunch but would be here at eleven so I haven't been as far as [Aitkens] yet -- With best

love always
Sarah

[*Upside down bottom left corner of p. 4, in pen & deleted; the rest of the letter appears to be in pencil*]

South Berwick
4th January 1896

Notes

8 January 1896: Annie Fields opens her "Diary of a West Indian Island Tour"; "On the 7th of Jan. 1896 we left Boston to join the ^steam^ yacht Hermione at Georgia. The thermometer had been ten degrees below zero on Monday but on Thursday night we reached Brunswick." As Annie Fields, Jewett and the Aldriches have been traveling by train on the day this letter was written, the composition date must be on one of the days of this train trip to Georgia, which ended on 9 January. See below, the note on Mrs. Leland Stanford.

This letter is written on lined stationery from the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Madison Square, New York, which is printed up the left side of page 2. It appears in the scanned copy from which this transcript has been made that Jewett folded a page of stationery in half to produce the 4 existing pages of this letter. That she folded it and obscured the letterhead suggests that when she wrote the letter she had left this hotel.

Mr. Talbot B. Aldrich: Talbot is one of the twin sons of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Aldrich.

cable code: This is a code book for addressing and "coding" telegrams to minimize their length. A contemporary example is *Low's Pocket Cable Code* (1900). In Fields's diary of the trip, she reports losing and recovering their code book on about 19 January.

Sharon: Sharon, Massachusetts is about 17 miles southwest of Boston.

Mrs. Richardson: It seems likely that this is Mrs. Henry Hobson Richardson, born Julia Gorham Hayden (1837-1914). H. H. Richardson (1838-1886) was a prominent New York architect "who designed buildings in Albany, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and other cities. The style he popularized is named for him: Richardsonian Romanesque. Along with Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, Richardson is one of 'the recognized trinity of American architecture'." He almost certainly would have become known to Jewett through Sarah Wyman Whitman and Annie Fields. Whitman worked with him on Boston's Trinity Church, 1872-7. Fields was a member, and their much admired mutual acquaintance, Phillips Brooks, was rector. Wikipedia notes: "Despite an enormous income for an architect of his day, his "reckless disregard for financial order" meant that he died deeply in debt, leaving little to his widow and six children."

Melissa Homestead, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, has confirmed the likelihood of this identification by working out that the Richardsons' son, Henry Hyslop Richardson, a real estate broker, came into Jewett's family in 1906, when he married Elizabeth Lejée Perry, daughter of Charles French Perry and Georgiana West Graves. Charles Perry was a distant cousin of the Jewett sisters, on their mother's side. Homestead notes that after the death of Jewett's nephew, Theodore Jewett Eastman, Elizabeth Perry Richardson "had some responsibility for Jewett's literary estate. "

the Smith house: This tantalizing story of a house fire has not been documented.

Player's Club: Edwin Booth (1833 - June 7, 1893), actor and brother of John Wilkes Booth, was a founding member of the New York Players Club in 1888. A friend of Fields and Jewett, Booth had introduced them to the club in 1891. See Jewett's November - December 1891 letter to T. B. Aldrich.

Keats: British poet John Keats(1795-1821).

Lily Phelps: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

bombardment: While Cuba, where a rebellion was in progress, *was* a possible destination of the Caribbean tour the group was beginning, the context of this letter makes it seem more likely that Lily Phelps is concerned about bad weather than exposure to a military attack. The *William Steinway Diary* notes that in New York City on January 7, 1896, there was "a bad icy snowstorm."

Mrs. Leland Stanford: Wikipedia says: "Jane Lathrop Stanford (August 25, 1828 - February 28, 1905) was a co-founder of Stanford University in 1885 (opened 1891) along with her husband, Leland Stanford, as a memorial to their only child, Leland Stanford Jr., who died in 1884 at the age of 15. After her husband's death in 1893, she funded and operated the university almost single-handedly until her death in 1905."

The *Rockland County Journal*, (18 January 1896) p. 2, places Mrs. Stanford in New York City in mid-January. while the *San Francisco Call* 79: 57 (26 January 1896) p. 18, reports on "Movements of People Who Are in the Swim": "Mrs. Leland Stanford will leave Washington in a few days for this City."

Miss Pike: Miss Pike appears to be a local resident of South Berwick, though this is not certain. If she is from South Berwick, she may be Eugenia Pike (b. 1844), daughter of John S. and Abba T. Pike (according to census records no longer available on-line). This Miss Pike apparently taught a term of grammar school in South Berwick in 1860 (See *Placenames of South Berwick*, p. 76). However, it appears there were *two* women named Eugenia Pike in South Berwick, who may have resided there while remaining unmarried in 1896. The younger woman (born 1870) was the daughter of Edward B. and Susan A. Pike of South Berwick (according to census records no longer available on-line). Both women had sisters born in South Berwick as well, so there could have been yet other Miss Pikes in South Berwick about whom the Jewett sisters might be concerned.

Susy Travers: Key to Correspondents.

Aitkens: Aitken Son & Company was an upscale New York department store at turn of the 20th century.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Items 9 and 10.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*9 January 1896*] [*Date penciled in another hand*]
Somewhere in North Carolina

Thursday morning

I have had a pretty good sleep for a sleeping car night and a proper breakfast with much fun and conversation from Mr. T. B. Aldrich, and now I must begin another letter to you{.} I managed to get the opposite section to the one A. F. and I had engaged together and that makes all the difference in the world, besides which Lilian overcame the fears of the darkey porter about our freezing and got the heat turned off. She and T.B. are both so nice as they can possibly be and old Bridget* is with us instead of already on the yacht as I supposed{,}

[*Page 2*]

a dear old-fashioned woman, so ready to help everybody. This is all I can think of to say about today except that A. F. is in great spirits and we don't get to Brunswick until seven o'clock instead at [four *?*] as I supposed. We are likely to have to wait for Mr. Pierce -- yesterday in New York we had a call from Charlie, Mary, looking so pleasant and with sincere wishes that he could go with us, and then Susy Travers came & Miss Appleton and Miss Appleton took me off to do my errands which I did in haste & much tiredness, it being a poor morning to your sister's spirit!! I got Theresa's matters settled* and

[*Page 3*]

found Mr. Keet* the Forum editor a funny little man like his name. I got your trimming Mary, and I hoped it would be what you wanted [--] it was charming by day and must be still prettier by night. I waked up in the night with a fuss because I hadn't looked longer for something all made but these were big things to go outside the waist and you would have had to take off all your pretty trimming to manage them. This was exactly what I had in mind at first and I hope I didn't show poor judgment. I dont see why Miss Gray couldn't take the little thing Miss [Cameron *?*]* made and put two rows of this ^together^ down the front on the chiffon and

[*Page 4*]

then make a [stiffer collar *?*] to put a [band round *?*] the neck joining behind. Carrie will know how to manage it. You might put some on the sleeves above the [*unrecognized word*] if you think best. It came from Aitken's.*

I went home to lunch with Miss Appleton & Susy and had a dear little time. They brought A. F. a wonderful box of orchids & daffies and a lot of candy to me, all of which we wished openly to send home to you.

It is warmer now [that storm *? unreadable word*] and quite southern already. It is all alike out of the windows [*a vertical mark, possibly a comma*] after you get in the level country

[*Up the left margin and then in the top margin of page 1*]

with the pines and the darkey cabins. I have written as often as I could{.} Just now there is not much to say. Though we happen [now at this last station and got the air *?*]. I hope Stubby [is *?*] in spirits

love to all from Sarah

Notes

Bridget: The Irish immigrant, Bridget, was an Aldrich family servant.

Charlie: Charles Ashburton Gilman (1859-1938), a Jewett relative. Key to Correspondents.

Susy Travers ... Miss Appleton: For Susan Travers, Key to Correspondents. Mary Appleton, also of Newport, RI, shared Susan Travers's interest in arts and philanthropy.

Theresa's matters settled: Jewett appears to be handling business for Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc. Jewett's translation of a portion of Blanc's "The Condition of Woman in America" appeared in *The Forum* XXI (March 1896), 1-20.

Mr. Keet: Alfred Ernest Keet. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Gray ... Miss [Cameron ?]: Presumably these women were dress-makers, but they have not yet been identified.

Aitken's: Aitken Son & Company was an upscale New York department store at turn of the 20th century.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 12.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*10 January 1896*]*
Oglethorpe Hotel*
Friday Morning

Dear Mary,

After I wrote you yesterday we changed cars at Waycross* and waited an hour or more and took a walk to view the place and saw a meetin' house that was bent in the middle and tilted over by a little tornado last summer. Then we came on here two hours journey and were pretty tired, but this morning as we went to breakfast Old Bridget came running and

[*Page 2*]

said that the Hermione was in. I had heard a gun but I didn't expect her for a season. Mr. Pierce came up to breakfast presently very smiling, and had had an excellent voyage. We are not going to start until tomorrow as brasses are to be rubbed and awnings put up [*unreadable marks*]. Everything being close reefed as one may say to come round the Cape. It is a delicious day. There are those who have taken a prancing walk but I stayed in to wash my wig and dry it by a little light wood fire while I could. I hope for a letter from you tomorrow morning.

With so much
love from Sarah

[*Up the left margin page 1*]

Carrie, I may start the worsted work this day.

Notes

10 January 1896: In another hand, this letter is dated 7 or 17 January, 1896. The chronology of Annie Fields's *Diary of a West Indian Island Tour* indicates that the party arrived in Brunswick, GA, on the evening of Thursday 9 January. Jewett wrote this letter the next day on Friday 10 January.

Oglethorpe Hotel: The party stayed at the Oglethorpe Hotel, then the premier hotel in Brunswick.

Waycross: Waycross, Georgia.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 2.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Saturday Morning
[*11 January 1896*]*

Today we are going to the Jekyll Island ^Club^* to luncheon and come back to the yacht in the afternoon and begin our residence -- and start early in the morning for Jupiter Inlet* (or Palm Beach where the new Flagler Hotels are & then I can write again. Mr. Pierce & Lilian & I took a long drive yesterday afternoon down the bay side (or marsh side) on a shell road & back through the woods. It was cold enough to be glad to wear a

cloak but bright & nice. I send Stubs a paper which will make him laugh.

Good bye with much love Sarah.

Notes

11 January 1896: This postcard is postmarked 13 January, but Jewett has dated it Saturday, the day of the Jekyll Island excursion, which was 11 January.

Jekyll Island Club: In 1896, Jekyll Island, Georgia was a private club, established in the 1880s, where the world's richest people built houses or rented rooms in winter. Only members and their guests could stay on the island. For details, see *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive.

*Jupiter Inlet ... Palm Beach ... new Flagler Hotel*s: Presumably, the *Hermione* sailed to the area of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, about 20 miles north of the current city of Palm Beach, FL.

Wikipedia says: "Henry Morrison Flagler (1830-1913) was an American industrialist and a founder of Standard Oil. He was also a key figure in the development of the Atlantic coast of Florida and founder of what became the Florida East Coast Railway. He is known as the father of both Miami and Palm Beach, Florida....

"Flagler completed the 1,100-room Royal Poinciana Hotel on the shores of Lake Worth in Palm Beach and extended his railroad to its service town, West Palm Beach, by 1894, founding Palm Beach and West Palm Beach. The Royal Poinciana Hotel was at the time the largest wooden structure in the world. Two years later, Flagler built the Palm Beach Inn (renamed Breakers Hotel Complex in 1901) overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Palm Beach."

For details, see *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive.

The manuscript of this card is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 3.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
S. Y. Hermione
[*End letterhead*]

Nassau
Wednesday 16th
Jan. [1896]

Dear Mary,

Luckily the first mail boat of the season is going over to Jupiter Inlet today where it strikes the Florida train and so after the telegram it wont be many days before you receive this letter, much quicker than if it went way up to New York by sea. I wrote you last from Brunswick just after we came on board Friday night, and we started out of the harbor very early and in a calm and collected frame of mind,

[*Page 2*]

but outside there was an old sea and your poor Sister with others of the ships company were very seasick all that day and were better but very low all that night and in the morning when we got to Jupiter Inlet where we thought we would go to shore and come to life again there was such a sea running that the captain thought we had better not try it as he couldn't get over the bar just then and it was too rough for the boats & ^we were^ four miles off. (a heaving tumbling sea and your poor sister on it and no old sea dog like a pretty Theodore who sailed the Norma.* Lilian was much

[*Page 3*]

sicker than I poor thing and A. F. and T. B. A. were gloomy. Then we struck across the Gulf stream* and by night we were much better off and yesterday morning here we were in this nice harbor and summer breezes blowing and the sea water the loveliest colour and coloured persons in boats a fetching sponges and shells and every thing much as we expected. About Noon we went ashore and found the little [*missing word?*] much more delightful than we had looked for: so foreign, so gay and quaint with an English touch about it too: as when one saw a thin clergyman proceeding down the street as if he were in Canterbury.

[*Page 4*]

We were too late for all but the last of the market but it was too funny with those elderly old darkies & their few oranges and pieces of sugar cane and there was one old turkey stepping about with a string to him as if he were taking a little pleasure before being sold. And people carrying everything on their heads and wearing turbans and little buildings with high roofs and high walls with pretty gateways and two or three nice old church towers. Then we went to the Victoria Hotel* and ate a splendid luncheon with large shore appetites with remarks from Mr. T. B. Aldrich for extra flavoring. After that we went to drive way up the island and saw cocoanut trees and every kind of green {.}

[*Up the left side of the first page*]

if we have any more such rough weather now or if we do we shall not mind it as we did coming right out to sea. Mrs. Aldrich sends her love to you

both and so does A. F. and so do I. I think of you both & Stubby so often and got him some stamps yesterday & more today but I shall write again before we [sail *?*]. Sarah

Notes

Theodore who sailed the Norma: It seems likely that Jewett is referring to Theodore Vail (1845-1920), owner of a steam yacht, *The Norma*. Vail was president of the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company of New York. According to Roger Austen in *Genteel Pagan* (1995), Vail invited the poet Charles Warren Stoddard on a New England coastal cruise (115-6). How Jewett was acquainted with Vail and what she would have expected her sisters to know remains a mystery. According to Wikipedia, Vail was a member of the Jekyll Island Club. Perhaps Jewett met him there during her party's brief visit before their departure from Brunswick on the *Hermione*.

Gulf stream: An Atlantic Ocean warm current that flows northward out of the Gulf of Mexico.

Victoria Hotel: The Royal Victoria Hotel was the main tourist hotel in Nassau. In her diary of the tour, Annie Fields describes dining at the hotel.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England in "Sarah Orne Jewett Personal Correspondence," Box 6.3 Letter 7**.**

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

S. Y. Hermione, Nassau, Wednesday,* 16 January [*1896*]

And I a writing to a friend on a pleasant summer morning and wishing that we could have a word together. Two days ago I was ready to change places with the coldest old hurdy-gurdy woman that ever sat at the State House corner,* and nobody cared whether the Gulf Stream was blue or whether it was pink, but yesterday I waked up in Nassau harbour and all was well and we went ashore to luncheon and life

[*Page 2*]

seemed to begin with flying colours. It is a charming little town along the waterside with its little square houses with four-sided thatched roofs and down the side lanes come women [carrying *corrected*] things on their heads -- firewood and large baskets 'of shapes,' and an idle man-person on a small donkey and little black darkeys, oh, very black ones! with outgrown white garments ---- I think it is a little like Italy but I suppose it is really more like Spain. And I who write you have seen cocoanuts a growing and as we drove along the bushy

[*Page 3*]

roads, A. F. did so squeak aloud for joy at every new bush and tree and tame flower a-growing wild. And when I found how easy it is to get here all the way by rail to Florida and across from Palm Beach (Jupiter Inlet) in a day, I wonder that more people dont come to this charming Victoria Hotel among its great silk-cotton trees* instead of staying in all the dull little sandy southern towns of the Carolinas.* You would see such pictures. I love your Bermuda sketches* a thousand times more than ever now -----

Things are going pretty well.

[*Page 4*]

I came away with a pretty heavy heart darling and I still have that sense of distance which tires ones spirits, but distance is its own cure and remedy, and all but ones swiftest thoughts at last stop flying back, and you get the habit of living where you are. -- Who was it said that you never get to a place until a day after you come, nor leave it until a day after you go?*

(I send you my love dear and so does A. F. I'm [*inserted between lines*] ^She's at the other end of the ship^{.} sure -- and Mrs. Aldrich asked me when I wrote to give a message from her. The yacht is very nice and big and there is a high quarter deck

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

where I sit and get cool in the salt breeze This is well

[*Down from left to right margin in the top margin of page 1*]

for one who left her native Berwick at 12 below zero!

Yours ever SOJ

We are going to be here a few days and I may

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

write again simply because I haven't managed to say

[*Down the right margin of page 2*]

anything in this letter.

Notes

Wednesday: While Jewett dated this letter on Wednesday, it seems clear that this and the previous letter were written on succeeding days. Probably this letter is from Thursday 17 January.

hurdy-gurdy woman ... State House corner: A hurdy-gurdy may be a barrel organ or other similar instrument often carried and played in the street. State House corner in Boston faces the Boston Common.

Victoria Hotel … silk-cotton trees: The Royal Victoria Hotel was the main tourist hotel in Nassau. In her diary of the tour, Annie Fields describes dining at the hotel. *Ceiba petrandra* or Kapok, in the American tropics, is often called the silk cotton tree.

Carolinas: In 1888, Jewett and Fields stayed a week or two in the areas of Aiken and Beaufort, South Carolina, after a couple weeks in St. Augustine, FL.

your Bermuda sketches: In *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman*, Whitman wrote about staying in Bermuda in the spring of 1892. To Jewett she wrote:

> New York, March 24, 1892.
> I am writing from New York on my way to Bermuda for two weeks. . . . I take with me the munitions of war, oil paints, pastel, and even water colours, for who shall say of what complexion the emotions of Bermuda will be?
>
> Bermuda, April 12, 1892.
> It is a little world all by itself and a world of colour, as its main attribute. Such a Sea, such a Sky! A dream of beauty different from anything else and I can see amazing pictures to be painted at every turn. . . .
> The local incident; the white houses built from the coral of which the island itself is made, . . . the negroes and their picturesque methods, the acres of lilies all in fragrant bloom, these things one can only glance at in writing, but some day I will tell you a pretty chapter of geography and history made out of this strange island in the sea, so lovely and so serene.

On Easter (April 17), Whitman wrote to Mrs. Bigelow Lawrence:

> I am returning from the enchanted island,... and O, what an island it is! No one can say too much of the color and fragrance of it, -- the sea, which is mixed of violet and turquoise, the sky, radiant with trailing clouds, everywhere beauty, and with it all a sort of strange romance, -- set in such loneliness, yet smiling and rosy as the dawn. It made me feel things that cannot be expressed in words.

after you go: Jewett uses this saying in "William's Wedding," section 3, *Atlantic Monthly* (106:33-40), July 1910.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Houghton Library, Harvard University: Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904, recipient. 25 letters; 1892-[1900] & [n.d.]. in Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 (126). A partial transcription appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911) #92. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Nassau
17 Janʸ -- 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Loulie

Last night I christened the water proof ^(<u>such</u> a blessing!)^ and so today I must write the letter which I have been thinking of [ever *corrected*] since we landed. Not that we have remained in a landed state! -- on the contrary we spend only a little time ashore living on the yacht in the harbor and rowing in to get luncheon at the nice hotel and then ^we^ take a drive out into the country in the afternoon. It is a funny life but I like

[*Page 2*]

it much better in harbor than I do at sea. We had a rough little voyage of two days down the Florida coast and across the Gulf Stream. Nassau is very quaint and foreign and I am always reminded of Italy but I suppose it is really more like Spain -- There are high walled gardens with orange boughs hanging over and weather beaten bananas -- <u>yes</u>: and cocoanut trees Loulie, which wag their heads in the wind and please a northern traveller

[*Page 3*]

very much. I like it very much and have a feeling that I shall like the islands better and better. We are waiting for the mail on Monday -- The first since we came, and then we are going to set sail.

You and Mamma would enjoy seeing our dear A.F. -- she never did like anything quite so well as these summer evenings and the southern sights. But we talk often of you both and find ourselves living at home a good deal. She is reading

[*Page 4*]

Irving's Columbus* aloud with Mr. Pierce -- and she and Mr. Aldrich settle all great questions and hold delightful and wise conclaves on the upper deck to which I love to listen. We all get on so pleasantly and the voyage starts very fair --

I think that it will always be safest to send letters to the care of Mr. Talbot B. Aldrich 158 State St. Do write Loulie dear -- and tell me that your dear Mother is getting on well. I send much love to you both.

Yours most affectionately

S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

Tell me about Mrs. Cabot too -- and your aunties {and} my dear ladies of Misselwood*

Notes

Irving's Columbus: *A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (1828) by American author Washington Irving (1784-1859). Wikipedia.

Mrs. Cabot ... aunties ... ladies of Misselwood: Which of Dresel's aunts these are is not yet known. Among Dresel's aunts, Jewett sometimes mentioned Caroline Howard King and her sister, Susan. The "ladies of Misselwood" were Dresel's Beverly, MA, neighbors, Susan Burley Howes Cabot and her sister, Elizabeth Howes. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett
Fragment

[*from Nassau*]

point – and lovely things growing altogether so that A. F. was pointing like a young one -- you know how she likes to see strange trees and bushes! There never was such a time in the world and we brought home large boughs of nearly everything, beside as many roses as we could carry, only a little darkey garden. (price a shillun.) You look along the little bowery roads with ^little^ thatched houses that have four sided roofs. and ~~of~~ ^down^ the side [*deleted word*] lanes come women with bundles on their heads and a big man on a little donkey. I keep thinking that it is something like Italy but I suppose it is more like Spain. We are going ashore every day to

[*Page 2*]

lunch. and we shall be here some days longer which we all like very well. Something is wrong with the ships water pipes and this morning clever ebony countenances of useful plumbers and carpenters passed by my high [nigh*?*] porthole in a crowded boat. T. B. sputters because the Alabama* and other commerce destroyers were fitted out here in war time and was so funny with his unexpectedly great anger at this late day. I must hurry and read up about Nassau for I know less I find than about almost any other island. I am arrayed in my denim dress but finding it heavy! Tell John that I saw the Talisman* the yacht he heard about – not nearly as large as this, lying up to the wharf at Brunswick* & they said she had a hard time out at sea. but so far the Hermione is all right. She is being steady. I doubt

Notes

Alabama: Presumably, Aldrich refers to the CSS *Alabama*, "a screw sloop-of-war built in 1862 for the Confederate States Navy at Birkenhead on the River Mersey opposite Liverpool, England by John Laird Sons and Company. *Alabama* served as a successful commerce raider, attacking Union merchant and naval ships over the course of her two-year career, during which she never docked at a Southern port. She was sunk in June 1864 by USS *Kearsarge* at the Battle of Cherbourg outside the port of Cherbourg, France" (Wikipedia). Whether the *Alabama* used Nassau as a port is not clear, but other Confederate navy ships apparently did, e.g. the *CSS Florida*.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Alabama: Aldrich refers to a Confederate navy vessel, the *CSS Alabama*, secretly commissioned by the British to support the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Wikipedia.

Talisman: The 1896 American Yacht list includes *The Talisman*, a steam yacht owned by Capt. George E. Crawson of Newark, NJ (48).

The manuscript of this fragment is held by Historic New England in "Sarah Orne Jewett Personal Correspondence," Box 6 Letter 1.

Sarah Orne Jewett Carrie Jewett Eastman & Mary Rice Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]
Jan^{y} 19th [*1896*] Sunday Morning
Nassau

Dear Mary & Carrie

I have finished a breakfast of the best [fishballs *?*]* as if it were Sunday morning at home and it seems a good moment to begin a letter. We hoped that we should get a mail yesterday but it seems that the Florida steamer won't bring the mails until February -- and so we are waiting until tomorrow when the regular steamer comes from New York. I suppose that I shall have to post this before I hear from you. We think now that we shall set sail in the afternoon as soon as we get the mail so as to be off San Salvador next morning. Mr. Pierce

[*Page 2*]

told me that he wanted to reach Jamaica by February but we have long runs all the way to get there. We have had a very nice time in Nassau and it is a great thing to really get acquainted with

a little foreign town. Yesterday was the first day that we didn't go ashore to luncheon and I stayed on board until evening, most of the time reading Mr. Midshipman Easy* on the hurricane deck where there was a delightful breeze and I was always stopping to see what was going on. We have come close to the wharves to get our coal and water in. (Lilian wont be made fast because rottens would like to step aboard on the cables!)* We are right beside the schooner Nathan K. Cobb of Rockland* which put in leaking and has had

[*Page 3*]

to unload her cargo, and the darkies were busy all day with a tackle and fall* hoisting up sugar bags out of the hold and singing a chanty which [seemed *written over another word*] new every time. There was such a funny shift in its few notes. I saw the Capins* wife sitting on the deck looking quite lonesome. In the evening Mr. Pierce and Lilian and I went ashore and drove out to a village called Grantstown* where they have a great Saturday night market [--] such poor little wares all laid out in ha'pennyworths and they are chaffering* and you can see into the cabins and every body has a little fire of pitch pine twigs to show their goods. It was a lovely night. The steamy south wind had changed to a northerly one -- and it has been cool and

[*Page 4*]

fresh so that we could wear thicker clothes again.

One day at the hotel someone [*written over* she*?*] came up to me and said that she knew my friend Miss Mary Longfellow of Portland and had seen you, Mary, at Aunt [Helen's *?*],* as their Miss Crain of Portland -- who has come down to spend the winter. I have seen her several times since and so has A. F. and we find her pleasant to talk to and very knowing about Nassau things. She says she knows Jane Sewell too, so you must tell Jennie that I've seen her. I must see her tomorrow when we expect to go ashore for a last [send *?*] up and down Bay Street. Today we went to church at the Cathedral, all but T. B. -- whom we pulled up by the roots toward evening and took for a walk on land. The church was quite big and grand with a lot of mural tablets and black and white pews mixed all together. There were two clergymen with

[*Up the right margin of p. 1*]

[Cambridge *?*] hoods* who looked delicate as if they had come out for their

[*Down from left margin in the top margin of p. 1*]

health and there was good singing and a proper sermon. The black troops in the garrison were marched in just before us in fine uniforms of white and red. You ought to have seen Bridget going in alone an hour before we did

[*Up the left margin of p. 2*]

to mass, with the rowers and the Capin steering her! I have had

[*Up the left margin of p. 3*]

a very nice time in Nassau and I hope we shall come back again. Ever

[*Down from left margin in the top margin of p. 3*]

so much love to all Your Sarah.

Notes

fishballs: A New England Recipes web page says: "*The American Frugal Housewife* published in Boston in 1833 has the earliest recipe for fish and mashed potatoes. 'There is no way of preparing salt fish for breakfast, so nice as to roll it up in little balls, after it is mixed with mashed potatoes; dip it into an egg, and fry it brown.' Fish balls were synonymous with New England Sunday breakfast. However, not all cooks served it at Sunday breakfast."

San Salvador ... Mr. Pierce: San Salvador Island is a district of the Bahamas. The island would be on the route to Jamaica, the next main stop Mr. Henry Lillie Pierce had planned.

Mr. Midshipman Easy: Wikipedia says: "*Mr. Midshipman Easy* is an 1836 novel by Frederick Marryat, a retired captain in the Royal Navy. The novel is set during the Napoleonic Wars, in which Marryat himself served with distinction."

rottens: If the word Jewett wrote is, indeed, "rottens," it is difficult to know quite what Lilian meant by fearing they would board the yacht via the cables were they to tie up to the dock. Perhaps she feared rats, but more likely criminals.

Nathan K. Cobb of Rockland: Probably Jewett meant the *Nathan F. Cobb*, of which Wikipedia says: "The *Nathan F. Cobb* was a three-masted schooner named after the shipbuilder and founder of Cobb's Salvaging Company whose many rescues of stranded ships helped lead to the formation of the United States Life-Saving Service. Despite its namesake's history of shipwreck rescues, the *Nathan F. Cobb* capsized in heavy seas on 1 December 1896 en route from Brunswick, Georgia to New York with a cargo of timber and cross ties.... The *Nathan F. Cobb* of Rockland, Maine was a three-masted, square rigged schooner constructed in 1890...." Cobb (b. 1797) came from Eastham, Massachusetts on Cape Cod.

tackle and fall: A system of pulleys and ropes for lifting and lowering heavy objects.

Capins wife: The names of the captain and crew members of the *Nathan F. Cobb* are not yet known.

Grantstown: Grants Town was a village south of Nassau.

chaffering: Bargaining.

Miss Mary Longfellow ... Aunt [Helen's ?] *... Miss Crain ... Jane Sewell*: See Key to Correspondents for Alice Mary Longfellow and Helen Gilman. Miss Crain of Portland has not been identified. It is possible that she has married since meeting Mary in Portland, but Jewett seems unclear about this.

Jane (Jennie) Sewell, according to *The Placenames of South Berwick* (75), was a resident of South Berwick, ME and, therefore, a neighbor of the Jewett family.

Bay Street: A main thoroughfare along the north coast of Nassau, facing Paradise Island.

the Cathedral ... hoods: For her account of Nassau, see *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive. The English Church in Nassau would have been Christ Church Cathedral. The church's website notes that no one is buried in the cathedral, that the inscriptions are plaques rather than markers.

It is uncertain what Jewett means by noting that "black and white pews" were mixed all together. Perhaps she means that, unlike in many churches she would attend outside New England, black and white people were integrated in this congregation. If so, it also is unclear to what degree they were integrated. Was each pew occupied only by people of one color? Or were whites and people of color free to sit wherever they chose? In her 2 February letter from Mandeville, Jamaica, Jewett says that church there was much like in Yorkshire, except for "all the decent black people scattered in."

The identities of the presiding clergy are uncertain. The Right Reverend Edward Townson Churton, educated at Oxford, was Bishop at Nassau 1886-1900.

The clergy wearing Cambridge hoods, if Jewett's description is precise, would indicate that they were graduates of Cambridge university and that they wore their academic hoods with their gowns during worship.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Thursday 23^{d} Jan
[*1896*]*

Dear Seddy:

It seems so odd to be so uncertain about your whereabouts, or rather how to reach you, but since the telegram told us no change I shall send this to Kingston again. We shall hope for another letter soon for it seems a great while since we got the Monday's one, the first from Nassau. We are going quietly on our way here. Thider is getting through his exams today and tomorrow, which will

[*Page 2*]

be a relief to his mind. He told me that his Rhetoric posted up 98 for the term which was not bad, but he didn't know the rest.

We hope to have a good little vacation in town of two or three days.

Caddy is flourishing, and likewise Rebecca. Frances came in today and I kept her to dinner{.} She looked so poorly. If she had stayed any longer in Boston there wouldn't have been enough of her to come home poor thing. Helen Sewall* came in late in the afternoon and promptly accepted a bidding to tea, after which mean Jane appeared and took her off to some endeavor ball at the Lewises. They asked me, but somehow the attractions of home seemed greater!

[*Page 3*]

I have bespoken Jane for tomorrow night -- Really I am getting my duty to my neighbor done at such a rate that I fear there will be nothing left for me to do! Yesterday being a very pretty day I went to the Does* and Maria Lords where I had such nice calls. The Judge is deep in local history at present, so we held forth at length. D^{r}. Willis* appeared yesterday, and we had a long and cheerful confab. He told me funny tales of Fru Ole and Miss Farmer having a couple of splendid rows which I shall be pleased to relate on your return. He had been to see Hannah who he thought was doing very well, and at last his bill is paid, of #49, which was very little for a year and a half it seemed to me. The distance he has

[*Page 4*]

to come being considered.

Frances told me that Susan Chase had been building Sarah Leah a blue gown of fashionable cut, with a blue velvet trimming, and there is to be a blue velvet bunnit to match.

Are we going to part with our friend do you think? Such a letter of thanks as came from D^{r}. M* for the featherbed which she says is making her patients life so much more tolerable. Friday{.}

It looks like Thanksgiving outside, and but for our frequent disappointments we should be expecting a good snow storm. There are a couple of inches

of light snow on the grass fortunately or I do not suppose we should have any grass at all next summer.

Mr Pratt* wrote me that he thought we were having a very favorable season for our little plantation, but they have snow enough for fine sleighing in Boston and things are well covered there.

My black silk came home from Miss Grant* looking so fine that I have a longing desire to go somewhere and wear it. I sent Mrs

[*Page 5*]

Cabots books {that} came this week with a little note of thanks and the latest news from you which brought this in reply! I had to send it on account of the postscript! I shall go to call when I go to town for by that time there will be [*two faded words*] from you. Mrs. Beal* writes the kindest of notes, and I am bidden for a luncheon with her! There are not notes of letters to send you strange to say, for all the world seems to know that you are gone. An occasional ['fool' *?*] letter from somebody drifts along, but I do not send you those though I read everything. I wrote Kelley* asking him to forward anything he might have collected as you were going abroad, yesterday, and hope for some word of response. He wrote Frances* that things looked far brighter in that region and he hoped to be more prompt, but was doing his best in any case. There was a fine hue and cry of fire again last night, but it proved to be only a little blaze in S. Falls cloth hall which was so quickly put out that when people got over there was no sign of any trouble. Sunday night there was a commotion and they set out to get out the engine but it was lucky they didnt since

[*Page 6*]

the fire was at Sturgeon Creek somewhere. Annie Barker* writes rather dolefully of Lucy Bells condition for it is getting very hard for her to walk again. It is too bad that Annie didn't reverse her progress and have Boston for a wind up for now she will come home very low from town. We are all well, horses{,} dogs, cats, and pigeons as far as heard from this morning. There was word of one new pigeon yesterday which we hope may be a mate for the odd one, and two more hatchings may be expected very soon. Where did you send your camera to be filled, for no photographs have ever come yet? How I wish I could see you both and know what you are doing. Caddy has just been in with Every Clever* on her way to the bank & office. Did I tell you in my last letter that I had a bidding to Plattsburgh from Fanny* this week?

Affly
MRJ

[Page*s 5 and 6 are written on the backs of the pages of the following enclosed letter to Mary Rice Jewett from Susan Burley Cabot.*]

January 23 --
[*1896*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]
34 Beacon Street.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett,

I was very glad that Sarah went to a warmer region this winter.

Sarah's experience seems to have been prosperous except the crossing from Florida and I think that she and Mrs. Fields will both be better for the expedition.

I did not

[*Page 2*]

know that Theodore had been ill but I am glad to hear he has been out again. I will send this week a book that I hope will entertain you.

I did recover from the cold that I had when Sarah departed but I shall probably have another soon. I am apt to have a succession of colds in the winter.

With love to Theodore

Yours sincerely
Susan B. Cabot -- by A.R.D.*

[*Page 3*]

I miss Sarah and Annie but I am glad they are in a better climate.

Notes

Rebecca ... Frances: Rebecca Young and Frances Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Helen Sewall ... Jane ... Lewises: The Sewall family were Jewett neighbors. They included Jotham Sewall (1847-1922) and his sisters, Helen D. Sewall (1845-1922) and Jane Sewall (1849-1952). See Pirsig, *The Placenames of South Berwick*, p. 75 and Find a Grave.

George Lothrop Lewis. Key to Correspondents.

Does ... Maria Lords: Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Maria Lord and the judge were members of the very extensive Lord family in the South Berwick area, They have not yet been identified.

Dr. Willis ... Fru Ole ... Miss Farmer: Dr John Lemuel Murray Willis (1856-1924) would have traveled from Eliot, ME to South Berwick (about 7 miles) to attend to the Jewett family and, perhaps, to neighbor Hannah Driscoll.

Fru Ole was Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

In 1894, Sarah Jane Farmer (1847-1916) founded the Green Acre Bahá'í School on Green Acre farm near Eliot, ME.

Susan Chase ... Sarah Leah: Sarah Leah, apparently of South Berwick, worked as Jewett's typist and is mentioned in several letters. However no details about her identity have been discovered as of this writing.

A contemporary Susan Chase (1850-1932) is buried in the Portland St. Cemetery in South Berwick.

M: Probably this is Dr. Helen Morton. Key to Correspondents.

Pratt: Edward Ellerton Pratt. See Miriam Foster Pratt in Key to Correspondents.

Miss Grant: Olive Grant. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Beal: Louisa Jane Beal, sister of Annie Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Lucy Bell has not yet been identified.

Kelley: This person has not yet been identified, but it appears he may be connected with the Fields family and, perhaps, able to forward mail for Jewett and Fields delivered to Fields's Boston address.

Frances: Frances Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Annie Barker ... Lucy Bell's: Annie Barker probably was Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921), frequently mentioned in Jewett's letters to her sister. Lucy Bell has not yet been identified.

Every Clever: It is not clear whether these words are capitalized. In any case, this appears to be a nickname for William, the child of Frances and Albertus Dudley. Frances was the daughter of Jewett correspondent, Aunt Lucretia Perry.

Plattsburgh from Fanny: It is not yet known which this is of the Fannys among Jewett's acquaintance.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908. This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman & Mary Rice Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

Port au Prince Hayti
25 Jan^{y} 1896

Dear Sisters,

I was sorry that I sent such a poor letter from Inagua* but there seemed to be scant time to do that and take it ashore [but *written over another word*] I found out afterward that I need not have hurried. You will now get further particulars with a one legged pen* of A. F.'s and hear that we were much interested with poor Inagua which seemed to have neither 'taters nor poor [rabbit *?*] either! There had been a great enterprise of salt-making two or three square miles of flats all dyked and put in working order with salt houses and wheels and dams & channels and after they had made good salt a while like Turk's Island* there came a great cloudburst and all the mud, red and

[*Page 2*]

sticky-looking worked up through, and the whole thing was left to go to ruin. The Consul's father was one of the men ^but died long ago^ and he and his old [*unrecognized word*] mother and the children have lived on but the little town went to pieces like the salt works because every body went away, and there lies Inagua in the hot sun low and hungry looking. [*deleted word*] All the little scrub oaks and things were quite forlorn ^looking^ ~~beside~~ ^after^ Nassau which was as bushy as Ireland. We had a nice long drive (though pretty hot and glaring) across the great salt plain where we saw snipe* feeding, and best of all, the most splendid flock of flamingos off on the flats, as bright as geranium flowers at that distance and the Consul said that they were tall enough to touch the top of his head with their beaks. I wish that Stubby could have seen & shot one. I tried

[*Page 3*]

to see if I could get an egg to bring him for his collection, [but *written over another word*] I couldn't. There must have been two or three hundred of them. We had the Consul & his mother & sister to dinner, and in the night we set sail over a rough piece of sea. From Inagua we could just see the mountains of Cuba, but I suppose that is all we are likely to see, and we turned south toward [Haity *so spelled*] and got into the most lovely bay among the mountains,* at sunrise -- with a queer little town like a geography picture -- high mountains behind and a long row of cocoa palms. The Republic of Hayti presently

came off in a boat -- a number of persons who were dignitaries of that port the chief among them being an old black person like Charles [Tash *?*]* with a silk hat much too large for him so that it went down over his shoulders like a cape. Mr. Pierce and I were on the upper deck and I hopped up to see the boat

[*Page 4*]

load thinking that they wanted to sell conch shells & things and my eye met this scene of splendor & I got Mr. Pierce and I thought he never would stop laughing: dont you know how Uncle William* would laugh sometimes until he cried? It had its affecting side too, but of all the majesty I ever saw! and that great hat! We stayed there all day but didn't go ashore. The Captain went off in a little boat and shot a pelican, and brought him aboard to our great interest. We saw them flying and fishing all down the shore and it was a great pleasure, nice picture-book pelicans, Carrie and Mary!

[*Deleted word*] Your sister tried to draw a little one but could not stop.... There was another big yacht in the bay & we left it there. We had our dinner and then went up on the Captain's bridge and stayed until bedtime. It was a lovely night perfectly quiet and still, and we sailed at nine o'clock and got here at seven this morning. The mountains are beautiful and the harbor full of shipping. There is a big steamer unloading

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

pelters* that kick and swing in the air. Mary would know them all again and some behave so well poor things.

[*Down from left margin in the top margin of p. 1*]

A. F. who has been rather upset and poorly of late, is nicely this morning and in great feather. Mr. Pierce says we shall go ashore a week in Jamaica & go up among the mountains & stay

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

perhaps. [Lillian *spelling varies*] who is much sicker than anybody is also well

[*Down from left margin in the top margin of p. 2*]

again. And I have not been very badly off except that first day. Now we are away from that

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

great Atlantic swell that knocks us about we shall be more comfortable.

Notes

Inagua: Inagua is the southernmost part of the Bahamas, consisting of two islands: Great Inagua and Little Inagua.

one legged pen: The phrase "one legged pen" occurs several times in documents available on the Internet, but what distinguishes it from any other pen is not clear. The phrase does not appear in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Examining the image of the manuscript shows no obvious difference between this and other letters Jewett mailed from the *Hermione*.

enterprise of salt-making ... like Turk's Island: See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), entry for January 24, for her account of visiting the salt works at Inagua. Though the production of sea salt on Inagua had failed by 1896, the Morton Salt Company now provides Inagua's main industry, with a large solar salt operation. The Turks & Caicos Islands had long been a source of salt in the Caribbean, from the 1600s to the present.

snipe ... flock of flamingos: Snipes are small wading birds, of which there are many varieties. Wikipedia says of Inagua: "There is a large bird sanctuary in the centre of the island with a population of more than 80,000 West Indian flamingoes and many other bird species...."

lovely bay among the mountains: According to Fields's diary, this bay was at Môle-Saint-Nicolas, on the northwest coast of Haiti. Wikipedia says: "Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas landed at the site of what is now Môle-Saint-Nicolas on December 6, 1492. The town received its present name after France gained control of the western part of Hispaniola in 1697." Wikipedia notes that the French began to occupy the area beginning in 1625.

Charles [Tash ?]: The identify of Charles Tash is unknown.

Uncle William: Jewett's Uncle William Jewett died in 1887.

pelters: Mary Rice and Sarah Orne Jewett usually use this word to indicate a horse. This apparently local usage is not reflected precisely in English dictionaries. The *Oxford English Dictionary* offers a definition that seems somewhat appropriate here: an old, feeble or inferior horse. However, here and elsewhere Jewett seems to use it to refer to horses in general. See for example Chapter 20 of A Marsh Island (1885), where a character describes a horse rider as "peltin' along," which in that context implies maintaining a quick pace.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

January 30th
[*and 19 February*]
Kingston Jamaica

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

My Dear Loulie

I was so glad to get your letter today and so was Mrs. Fields. We are having a very much better time as we go on, for A. F. is better and I too and I find Jamaica a most enchantingly beautiful country. My fellow travellers say that Ceylon* is not a bit more beautiful -- We have been a week in Nassau where I wrote

[*Page 2*]

you and then came down through the Bahamas stopping only at Inagua a strange lonely island which I must tell you about some day with its wild marshes and a huge flock of flamingos like all your best red paints spilt on the shining mud -- There had once been square miles of salt works which were ruined by a tornado and now the flamingos blow about there like flames --

-- Then we went to Hayti, which was oh, so funny with its pomp of darkeys. Port au Prince was

[*Page 3*]

quite an awful scene of thriftlessness and silly pretense* -- but one or two little Haytian harbours and the high green coast were most lovely. And then Jamaica with all its new trees and flowers, and its coolies, Loulie! with their bangles and turbans and strange eyes. You would like Jamaica immensely.

Your news of the bicycle is very entertaining -- you will be cutting by a slow-footed friend any day after I get back. I think it is so good for you -- one needs a serious

[*Page 4*]

reason for getting out of doors sometimes, and a bicycle is a very serious reason indeed. The roads are so fine here, winding and looping along the sides of the hills as they do in Switzerland -- fine English-made roads -- and you look up to the great mountains, and down to the blue sea --

I am writing in a hurry to catch a mail, and I send ever so much love to you and to dear Mrs. Dresel and I know A. F. sends her love too -- Ever your affectionate

S. O. J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

You will find this an old date, dear Loulie, but the letter was overlooked when our last mail was sent ashore and there hasn't been one since, this being the 19th of February! We are on our way to Nassau now expecting to reach there in a few days. We got into a

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 2*]

port way down in Porto Rico, and after they had collected all the fees they told us if we went on to St. Thomas (where all our letters were!) or to any of the Windward Islands upon which our hearts were set, we should have to go through a long quarantine!*

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 3*]

so we turned meekly around & came back all our long way, but we have seen a good many islands & many rough seas and I feel more resigned now than I did at first. We are sure to be at home in two or three weeks now if all goes well. I think this is a more important postscript than letter!

Notes

Ceylon: In 1894-5, Thomas Bailey and Lilian Aldrich traveled to the far east, visiting Ceylon (Sri Lanka) along with Japan, China, India and Egypt. See *The Life of Thomas Bailey Aldrich*, Chapter 7, "Indian Summer Days."

pretense: Annie Fields observes, in her journal of the 1896 Caribbean tour, that she found Port au Prince perhaps the most "strangely barbarian place ... on the face of the earth!" She goes on to offer the opinion that after years of occupation by Spanish, English and French colonialists, the Africans of Haiti are more degraded than those found in the "wilds of Africa." Fields does not describe what exactly provoked her reaction, as it does not appear that any of their party went ashore in Port au Prince. See her entry for Friday 24 through Monday 27 January. In her journal, Fields frequently recurs to this event as defining the darkest episode of the tour, the most challenging to her views about the progress of human history. In this letter, Jewett seems to react more moderately, though still quite judgmentally.

long quarantine: Fields explains in her journal that as a result touching shore in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, because there had been at least one case of yellow fever on the island, they would have to wait in the St. Thomas harbor for 10 days before they could go ashore there or in any of the Windward Islands. Rather than wait so long and possibly increase their liability of exposure, they elected to return to San Domingo.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Annie Fields Transcription

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Dear Loulie, -- I was so glad to get your letter today, and so was Mrs. Fields. We are having a very much better time as we go on, for A. F. is better and I, too, and I find Jamaica a most enchantingly beautiful country. My fellow travellers say that Ceylon is not a bit more beautiful. We have been a week in Nassau, where I wrote you, and then came down through the Bahamas, stopping only at Inagua, a strange lonely island which I must tell you about some day, with its wild marshes and a huge flock of flamingos, like all your best red paints spilt on the shining mud. There had once been square miles of salt works which were ruined by a tornado, and now the flamingos blow about there like flames. Then we went to Hayti, which was oh, so funny with its pomp of darkeys. Port au Prince was quite an awful scene of thriftlessness and silly pretense* -- but one or two little Haytian harbours and the high green coast were most lovely. And then Jamaica, with all its new trees and flowers, and its coolies, Loulie! with their bangles and turbans and strange eyes. You would like Jamaica immensely.

Your news of the bicycle is very entertaining. you will be cutting by a slow-footed friend any day after I get back. I think it is so good for you, -- one needs a serious reason for getting out of doors sometimes, and a bicycle is a very serious reason indeed. The roads are so fine here, winding and looping along the sides of the hills as they do in Switzerland, -- fine English-made roads, -- and you look up to the great mountains, and down to the blue sea.

I am writing in a hurry to catch a mail, and I send ever so much love to you and to dear Mrs. Dresel, and I know A. F. sends her love too.

You will find this an old date, dear Loulie, but the letter was overlooked when our last mail was sent ashore, and there hasn't been one since, this being the 19th of February! We are on our way to Nassau now, expecting to reach there in a few days. We got into a port way down in Porto Rico, and after they had collected all the fees they told us if we went on to St. Thomas (where all our letters were!), or to any of the Windward Islands upon which our hearts were set, we should have to go through a long quarantine! So we turned meekly around and came back all our long way, but we have seen a good many islands and many rough seas and I feel more resigned now than I did at first. We are sure to be at home in two or three weeks now if all goes well. I think this is a more important postscript than letter!

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman & Mary Rice Jewett

Mandeville, Jamaica*
2nd February [1896]

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mary & Carrie

We came up to this pretty old fashioned English village high enough among the mountains to be cool -- to spend Sunday and you can't think how nice it is! We miss some of the luxuries of the yacht to be sure but I cant say I regret them so much as to make me suffer though I never did sleep in a bed that felt more like plain wicker work than this one last night. We went to a hotel six miles from Kingston and spent Friday night for they were going to paint the hurricane deck and do some other jobs and mending of the Hermione, and the harbor of Kingston

[*Page 2*]

is neither the coolest nor the most fragrant. So we spent the night at the Constant Spring Hotel where there is a view of both mountains & sea and found it a great rambling dull barrack in itself but pretty comfortable.* Yesterday we drove to Castleton gardens (one of the Government Botanical gardens)* and started at seven for the 13 miles which we enjoyed going up) very much, it was so shady and cool. The gardens don't interest me half as much as those at Bath though I did see a mahogany tree and send you some leaves. It isn't half as handsome as it ought to be! when we think of its dignity. We drove back to Kingston after lunch and meant to go to Spanish Town* where the old Spanish & other government buildings are, to spend last night and then come on up here, but we found

[*Page 3*]

it was low & hot like Kingston, so we made a bold [wish *?*] and a sudden change and come on fifty miles by rail, in a first class English "carriage" and drove up the mountains ten miles more which made us [147 *?*] miles ^ [drive *?*] ^ in all and wicker beds didn't matter! The air is delicious -- so cool and lovely & fresh. A. F. & Mr. Pierce & I went to church this morning and you would certainly have thought you were in some old church in Yorkshire, if it had not been for all the decent black people scattered in. The Church tower is square & low with a clock and a funny bell, it ought to be a little peal and you would say it

was certainly England with its church-yard & rector and two or three clergymen.

One thing we have had new here is bread fruit.* It is very good and,

[*Page 4*]

now I believe I have had every thing the Swiss Family Robinson* did but the cassowary.* Wasn't that the nutritious bird they shot? After church we could see the people going home through the fields in little companies to eat their Sunday dinners. I don't know what they have but always yams. I have almost never tasted such sweet oranges as grow here. I believe they are quite famous.

We mean to sleep on board tomorrow night, then we sail next night for San Domingo which will take us two days nearly. There are some things to see in Kingston yet. We drove through the grounds of King's House where the governor lives and oh such flowers! all the coloured leaved things are splendid, here coleus & crotons.* But oh my dear sisters imagine my feelings at find{ing) the Browell* growing by the roadside in Jamaica!! I was penetrated with feelings at beholding it and I longed

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

to have you both near -- It is a small blue flower that we have had in Maine.

[*Down top margin from left margin on page 1*]

I trust you will feel an interest. I saw such pretty oxalis will* and this is the home of the storied Wandering Jew! and lots of others little garden things. It is so funny to see them and makes me think of meeting a

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

gov's seal those warm May days that we generally choose. But [those *?*]

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

delights don't grow as they do in Switzerland. The Consul has paid us

[*Down top margin from left margin on page 3*]

every kind attention [and *?*] I can't think I shall like any place better than Jamaica.

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Give my love to John & Jenny & Liza and much to you all.

[*Down top margin from left margin on page 4*]

Sarah. I was so sorry to hear of our Mrs Downy. Becca* will miss her.

Notes

Mandeville: According to Wikipedia, "Mandeville is the capital and largest town in the parish of Manchester in the county of Middlesex, Jamaica." *Stark's Jamaica Guide* provides a fairly detailed description of Mandeville as an English village in a tropical setting (pp. 112-6).

Constant Spring Hotel: See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive, 31 January entry.

Castleton gardens ... Bath: Castleton is on the Wag Water River, which flows into Annotto Bay on the north side of the island, about 24 miles from Kingston. According to Stark, by the 1890s, the Wag Water had become an important part of Kingston's water supply. Wikipedia says: "In the 19th century, the British established a number of botanical gardens. These included the Castleton Botanical Garden, developed in 1862 to replace the Bath Garden (created in 1779) which was subject to flooding. Bath Garden was the site for planting breadfruit, brought to Jamaica from the Pacific by Captain William Bligh. It became a staple in island diets."

mahogany ... leaves: Wikipedia says *Swietenia macrophylla*, commonly known as mahogany, Honduran mahogany, Honduras mahogany, or big-leaf mahogany, is a species of plant in the *Meliaceae* family. .... It is native to South America and Mexico, but naturalized in Singapore and Hawaii, and cultivated in plantations elsewhere." The wood is prized for color, hardness and resistance to termites.

Spanish Town: Wikipedia says: "Spanish Town is the capital and the largest town in the parish of St. Catherine in the county of Middlesex, Jamaica. It was the former Spanish and English capital of Jamaica from the 16th to the 19th century. The town is home to numerous memorials, the national archives, a small population, and one of the oldest Anglican churches outside England." Spanish Town is about 13 miles west of Kingston.

bread fruit: "Baobab, common name for a tropical African tree (see Mallow). ... The fruit, called monkey bread, is about the size of a citron; the pulp, which has a pleasing acid taste, is used in the preparation of cooling drinks. The bark of the tree yields a strong cordage fiber. The baobab, native to Africa, is now cultivated in many tropical countries throughout the world." *Encarta*

Swiss Family Robinson: Wikipedia says: "*The Swiss Family Robinson* ... is a novel by Johann David Wyss, first published in 1812, about a Swiss family shipwrecked in the East Indies en route to Port Jackson, Australia."

cassowary: "Common name for any of three members of a genus of flightless birds. Cassowaries stand 1.2 to 1.8 m (about 4 to 6 ft) high and can run as fast as 48 km/h (30 mph) when frightened.**"** *Encarta.* Among the birds the Swiss Family Robinson shot for food were ortolans and a bustard. More likely, Jewett is thinking of a bustard, heavy Old World birds that rarely fly. The Swiss family probably knew bustards from Switzerland and gave the name to a large terrestrial bird they shot in the East Indies; therefore, Jewett is correct that they more likely found a cassowary, which is a native of the East Indies.

King's House: the governor's residence was north of the village of Halfway Tree. Henry Arthur Blake was governor of Jamaica, 1888-1897.

coleus & crotons ... the Browell: According to *Encarta* coleus is a "large genus of tropical African and Asian herbs, of the mint family. The genus comprises about 100 species, several of which are extensively cultivated for their brilliantly colored, variegated foliage."

Crotons are pantropical plants with multiple varieties, making it difficult to determine which plant Jewett refers to. A number of domesticated varieties have multi-colored leaves.

Perhaps Jewett refers to *Browallia* which Wikipedia describes as "a genus of *Solanaceae* family. It is named after Johannes Browallius (1707–1755), also known as Johan Browall, a Swedish botanist, physician and bishop."

oxalis will: Wikipedia says: "*Oxalis* ... is by far the largest genus in the wood-sorrel family *Oxalidaceae*: .... The genus occurs throughout most of the world, except for the polar areas; species diversity is particularly rich in tropical Brazil, Mexico and South Africa. Many of the species are known as wood sorrels ... as they have an acidic taste reminiscent of the unrelated sorrel proper (*Rumex acetosa*). Some species are called yellow sorrels or pink sorrels after the color of their flowers instead."

Wandering Jew: As a legendary figure, the Wandering Jew was a person who refused to allow Jesus Christ to rest at his door as he bore his cross toward Calvary, and so was condemned by Jesus to wander over the earth until His second coming. Wikipedia says that there are three species of Spiderwort, *Tradescantia*, called Wandering Jew, perhaps because they grow out in lengthening vine-like stems.

*John & Jenny & Liza ... Mrs Downy ... Becca***:** Jenny and Liza probably were Jewett neighbors or employees. For John Tucker and Rebecca Young, see Key to Correspondents. Mrs. Downy has not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Jackson Lee Morse*

[*Begin letterhead*]
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

Port Morant Jamaica
6 February 1896

My dear Mrs. Morse

You cannot think how delighted I was to get your charming letter the other day at Kingston! I had been thinking of you and meaning to write very soon but you can understand how difficult it is to write at sea and when we get into port we fly ashore to see what may be seen. We have had pretty rough seas but always a fresh breeze by day and the most lovely colours of sea and sky and of these magnificent Jamaica mountains which seem to rise straight up [out *written over a word*] of that sea itself with all shades of violet

[*Page 2*]

and gray -- We have found Jamaica a most exquisite place -- or I ought to say little country for it is a world by itself --The first ports we made were really tropical = our friends who were in Ceylon last year insist that "the garden of the world" was not a bit more beautiful -- At Kingston we left the yacht for a few days & went up into the mountains to a village called Mandeville which is almost like a bit of Yorkshire with its old gray square towered parish church and [quiet *?*] church yard. Such an old fashioned little English place all together -- and with the

[*Page 3*]

most delightful fresh air. There and at some other places we had all the fruits and vegetables of my beloved Swiss Family Robinson and it was a constant amusement to investigate one's luncheon or dinner to see what new thing would happen to appear. At Nassau where we spent a week it was much less tropical but very quaint and pleasant. We had nice drives there and made the acquaintance of cocoanut trees and mango trees and especially the great ceiba or silk cotton tree which is the hugest most noble great tree in the world (at least in <u>my</u> world!) like a great forest in itself. I do so wish that I could show you one. The colored people have most luckily -- a superstition

[*Page 4*]

about cutting the ceiba down or doing them any harm so that you see them all about the country --

and on most islands -- Our only trouble is in the rough seas which Mrs. Aldrich minds very much. We are seriously thinking today of giving up our expedition to the islands farther South which will be such a disappointment to her and to all of us. When we have made our next turn across to Hayti we shall decide -- but it was a rough day when we made the passage before. When I get back I shall have so many things to tell you -- and you will hear me scold about Port au Prince which was such a funny hot dusty [sandy *?*] [metropolis *corrected*] of our coloured [brethren *?*] {.}

-- I am sitting on deck writing to you and the trade wind is rolling the yacht a little so that you mustn't mind if my writing is hard to read. I loved your story about the dear pink

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

bonnet! Mrs. Fields and I send ever so much love to you and Fanny -- I have wished that Mrs Elliot* were only here to make some sketches -- the color is so lovely & it seems as if I must get a little paint box and try myself! I do hope that you are quite well

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 2*]

again dear Mrs. Morse -- I am so sorry when I think what a siege you have had. I hope that you and Gwen* are having some nice afternoons together. Yours most affectionately

Sarah --

Notes

Morse: See Frances Rollins Morse in Key to Correspondents.

Gwen: Frances Rollins Morse was the sister of Dr. Henry Lee Morse (1852-1929). He married Jessie Frances Lizzie Scott (1860-1909). Their only known child, Harriet Morse's granddaughter, was Gwendolyn (1886-1968). Family Search.

Elliot: Jewett's reference is uncertain. One of her friends was Mrs. Maud Howe Elliot, daughter of Julia Ward Howe, Key to Correspondents. This Mrs. Elliot was well-known as an author, but not as a painter. A contemporary artist was the Canadian, Emily Louise Orr Elliot (1867-1952), Wikipedia. But there is as yet no evidence that Jewett was acquainted with her.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743.1 (123) Box 4, II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Saturday Feb 8
[*1896*]*

Dearest Seddy:

It was very nice to wake up in my own bed this morning though my two little visits had been so very pleasant, and I did not want to come away from Exeter. Thursday I spent with Aunt Mary* in spite of an almost tropical rain. The dear soul sent August Early* to say that he should call for me at twelve, but William* had already been bespoken and had to come back in a hack { because } it poured in such sheets. We had an excellent season of talk and she had her nap while I read the Advertiser as usual. I realized the truth of what Aunt Bell* had said of her having grown so much less restless, for I have never seen her seem so well and cheerful for a very long time, and apparently so content. Isn't it beautiful for her? When I went in the other day she was reading the White Heron*

[*Page 2*]

and held it up to me saying "You see I am in good company dear". Yesterday morning I went to see grandma Eastman* who was very cheerful, and had no note of complaint though she looked rather 'yaller' as if a bilious attack might be looked for about this time.

All the trains were late yesterday on account of washouts along the line so I waited three quarters of an hour at the station which was very trying as Ned* had just come to make a call before I left. He named Uncle & Aunt John to be anxious travellers, fearing what their experiences might be each day. Uncle was sick in Hong Kong but was all right at last account. Aunty said that Uncle Will thought with their rather apoplectic tendency that it was

[*Page 3*]

very risky for them to be so much in hot countries, and Edward* named them to be rather averse to exercise{.} Notwithstanding which croaks I expect to see them back well and hearty. I did get the round of my family while in Exeter, but it was with difficulty for there was only one pleasant day which was Sunday{.} I got a chance to ask Theresa* about Aunty and she said she had really been so well since they went away, just as she looks. Anyway she has had to let out all her gowns, for getting so stout{.} It is trying to lose all the nice sleighing, and have to take wheels again. I had a little drive with Uncle Will one day, and that is the only time I have been in a sleigh this winter. The weather is like the middle of March or early April a good deal of the time. There was such a nice letter from Frances yesterday with one

[*Page 4*]

enclosed to you from [Um *?*] which I will save until you come. He told about spending the money you gave him for Christmas in a very feeling manner. Frances has 'come to' at last it seems to me in the dearest way. We had two beautiful lettys from you this week from Port au Prince and Port Antonio which were greatly enjoyed in Exeter also. Thider told me that Mr. Stacy had one from the Stoddards telling of their pleasure in seeing you, and that they were going to see the yacht that day &c. Becky has gone to spend [today *corrected*] with Nell, and I think I shall ask a party of Caddy & Thider to dinner --.

I didn't send any letter to Port Antonio because Mrs. Aldrich said Kingston in her telegram so I fear you were disappointed, but hope you got several that were sent to K. You must miss some of the letters in spite of all our efforts to have them ready for you, but you will soon be here again probably and get all the news at once. Have you any

[*Page 5*]

idea yet when you will come. It makes me so thankful whenever I think of you having such a fine chance to see strange countries so pleasantly, and as you have often said sea sickness is but a small price to pay for such privileges, though when one is in the misery of it, it seem terribly high sometimes. Mr. T. Stubs is full of affairs as usual and never was dearer. Caddy names the new clothes to be very seemly but I have not yet viewed them. I thought little Tommy* would eat me up when I came home yesterday, and what will he do to you? I could see your funny old man at Port au Prince with the big hat, and we laughed a good deal at it, and at the cap'ns slipping out to sea away

[*Page 6*]

from the 'raskills'. Wasnt it in Midshipman Easy* that there was a sorry ending with a profane chorus about the Port Admiral? I should think you would travel by that tale as we did abroad by the Rollo books. There was a grand K. Pythias ball last night to which Jane* went a pageant of good looks in the new gown. Eliza told her she was finer than Lanes & Batchelders to her great amusement. I will send the money to Sarah Leah* at once. I was wondering how much it was, and forgot to ask before you went away. It is time this went to the office so heres my love and good will for you and all the ships company. How I wish I could see where you are now!

Affly
MR.J

Notes

1896: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Sarah Orne Jewett c/o Colonial Bauly, Martinique, Windward Islands, Cancelled in Boston on 10 February 1895.

It has been stamped: "Detained at Consulate Sent to Dead Letter Office as 'Unclaimed.'"

Jewett's sailing party never reached the Windward Islands.

These details suggest that Sarah Jewett did not receive this letter while she was traveling.

Aunt Mary: Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Key to Correspondents.

August Early: This appears to be a name, perhaps an employee. The person has not yet been identified.

William: Probably William Perry Fiske. Key to Correspondents.

Aunt Bell: Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

White Heron: Sarah Orne Jewett's story collection, *A White Heron* (1886).

Eastman: Abby Smith Eastman was mother-in-law to Jewett's sister, Caroline / Caddy.

Ned ... Uncle & Aunt John ... Aunty ... Uncle Will ... Frances: Aunty was Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry. Her son, Uncle John, was John Taylor Perry, and his wife was Sarah Chandler Perry. Aunty's daughter was Frances Perry, mentioned later. Key to Correspondents.

Ned has not yet been identified.

Theresa ... Edward: These persons have not yet been identified.

Stacy ... Stoddards: Mr. Stacy and the Stoddards have not yet been identified. However, Sarah Jewett's letter to Mary of 16 January 1896 refers to a possible acquaintance between Theodore Eastman and American poet Charles Warren Stoddard (1843-1909).

Becky ... Nell: Becky was Rebecca Young. Key to Correspondents. Nell has not yet been identified.

Tommy: A Jewett dog.

Midshipman Easy ... Rollo books: *Mr. Midshipman Easy* is an 1836 novel by British naval officer Frederick Marryat (1792-1848).

American author, Jacob Abbott (1803-1879) wrote a series of moralistic children's novels, in many of which Rollo was the main character. One of these was *Rollo in London* (1854).

K. Pythias ... Jane ... Eliza: The Knights of Pythias is a philanthropic fraternal organization founded in the U.S. in 1864.

Jane probably was Jane Sewall. It is not yet known which of the many Elizas this may be from among Jewett's acquaintance.

Lanes & Batchelders: Presumably this was a store that sold dresses, but no information has yet been discovered.

Sarah Leah: Sarah Leah, apparently of South Berwick, worked as Jewett's typist and is mentioned in several letters. She may have been Sarah Leah Huntress of South Berwick.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908. This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sally A. Kaighn* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Moorestown, New Jersey
2nd mo 10th 1896

Dear friend

I wonder if with all the many claims on thy time and attention thee would be willing to read just these few lines I send thee to thank thee for all the help and encouragement, as well as pleasure, thy writings have given me through many years? Thy wonderful gift of understanding lonely lives, especially those of elderly women, is so unusual, there is such a [warming *?*] cheery tone in describing

[*Page 2*]

the narrow limitation of some of our lives, and yet they never seem hopelessly ridiculous, as when <u>others</u> attempt to describe them. One laughs, and yet feels so grateful for the tender pathos, underlying it all. How often after a tiresome day, I have sat down and read one of thy spicy little [stories *corrected*], and felt so comforted and cheered, with my heart filled with a loving pity for those whose limitations were greater and harder than my own. I should not tire thee with telling thee this, if it were only myself who was thus [benefitted *so spelled*] but there are, there <u>must</u> be so many others, who could echo

[*Page 3*]

my own poor words -- and not only among those of the [class *corrected*] I have mentioned, but also among those whose lives are so outwardly blessed with everything that some others have missed --

And we who are not young, and <u>do</u> enjoy, dear "Betty Leicester" and the "Marsh Island" that loveliest of [love *corrected*] stories --

I am afraid thee can scarcely gather from this poorly written letter, just how <u>much</u> I thank thee for my part and share in all thee has done to cheer and uplift the hearts in this world of ours, which so greatly needs those who write for it to be pure and true, but it

[*Page 4*]

seemed a little duty that yet remained for me to do. Please excuse the liberty I have taken, if I have tired thee, and, in conclusion may I quote from our dear Whittier,* the desire that our spirits may know our dear Master to

"Drop thy still dews of quietness
Till all our stirrings cease
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace{.}"

Gratefully and lovingly
Thy friend Sally A. Kaighn

Notes

Kaighn: This person has not yet been identified. Find a Grave lists one Kaighn woman in the Moorestown Friends Cemetery, Lucy Ann Engle Kaighn (1844-1924).

"Betty Leicester" ... "Marsh Island": Jewett's books: *Betty Leicester* (1890), *A Marsh Island* (1885).

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. His poem, "The Brewing of Soma," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1872. Stanzas from the poem were adapted to a hymn, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind." Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 121 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett Carrie Jewett Eastman & Mary Rice Jewett

Mayaguez, Porto Rico*
Tuesday 11 February [*1896*]

[*Begin letterhead*]
Steam Yacht Hermione
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Sisters,

Here we are in a new little island country -- Spanish this time and as foreign as it can possibly be. We had an awful voyage from Jamaica rough and tumbling day and night nearly all the way until I didn't care whether I ever saw another island or not! We meant to go to San Domingo city along the south coast of Hayti but we got into the great blow & current of trade winds and turned about so that the course was changed and we stopped first at a little town called Boury* and then came 'north about' to another

[*Page 2*]

dirty dilapidated [darkey *?*] town called Cape Haytien* where there was a pretty harbor with old Spanish forts, but we made a very short look of the town answer, and then came on our way here. The air is quite different, very cool and fresh and delicious and the hills ashore look charming not so tropical but plenty of trees scattered about and a grassy look which we have seldom seen down here. All the town (the houses I mean) looks one story high and lovely Spanish damsels made eyes at T. B. as we drove along. There is a good big cathedral with two yellow towers and

[*Page 3*]

a square in front with a fine statue of Columbus.* It is very interesting because it is A.F's & my first look at Spain. We are going ashore again this morning to see the market and mean to sail this afternoon for San Juan on the north shore 80 miles and then go on from there to St. Thomas where I hope there will be a good big mail. How far we ^shall^ get "down the islands" I can't say: it will depend upon the blowing of the winds and the height of the waves, but the trade wind which keeps the air so fresh makes a great surf and you find very few harbors

[*Page 4*]

but only <u>roads</u> for the most part, as if we anchored half a mile or a mile out of Wells in front of Sam's -- Inagua* was like that and this roadstead is not much better. I have wish[ed] so many times that I hadn't left my last letter from Auntie* ^before I left home^ in which she said the name of the place where Mrs. Lind lived. I have tried & tried to think of it. I asked the consul last night if he knew anything of the family but he had only been here a few years. He came off to call quite handsomely with a little old French mother from Bordeaux with whom A. F. held a great French conversation and made her have a beautiful time. There are electric lights in Mayaguez and

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

what always pleases us -- an artificial ice machine so that we stock up and have ice water to drink.* Your sister who writes you is rather low this morning owing to a steady roll but she hopes to be the better of going up on

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

the hurricane deck and reading a lively tale where the

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

wind is blowing. The captain has just been trying to shoot

[*Down from the left margin in the top margin of page 4*]

a shark which has distracted my mind{.} Ever so much love to all from S. O. J.

Notes

Mayaguez, Porto Rico: Near the center of the west coast of Puerto Rico.

San Domingo … Boury: Jewett may be confused about the location of San Domingo, unless she only means that their intended route was along the southern coast of Haiti. Wikipedia says: "Santo Domingo ... known officially as Santo Domingo de Guzmán, is the capital and largest city in the Dominican Republic and the largest city in the Caribbean by population."

There is no town named "Boury" on the west coast of Haiti, though there is an inland area so named northeast of Port au Prince. In her diary for February 8, Fields reports sailing as far south as Cape Esavois on the south coast of Haiti, but no coastal town of this name can be located either. Because the sailing was terrible, perhaps both writers failed to hear correctly the name of the point at which the *Hermione* gave up trying to reach the Dominican Republic and turned northward toward Cape Haytien on the way to Puerto Rico. Possibly Fields meant Les Irois, a village on the tip of the southern peninsula of Haiti.

Cape Haytien: Wikipedia says 21st century Cap-Haïtien is "often referred to as Le Cap or Au Cap, is a commune of about 190,000 people on the north coast of Haiti and capital of the Department of Nord. Previously named as Cap Français, Cap Henri and historically known as the Paris of the Antilles, displaying its wealth and sophistication through its beautiful architecture and artistic life."

Cathedral ... statue of Columbus: Wikipedia says: "Plaza Colón is the main plaza in the city of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. This plaza and its fountain commemorate the explorer Christopher Columbus, whose name in Spanish was Cristóbal Colón. The plaza presents the traditional urban relationship in Puerto Rico with the church, now Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria Cathedral on one end of the plaza and the "Alcaldia" or Mayagüez town hall in the other." A statue of Columbus stands in the center of the plaza.

Wells … Inagua: Jewett and her sisters in South Berwick were familiar with nearby Wells, Maine. Sam's would appear to be a business, but information about this has not been located. In her 23 January diary entry, Fields reports: " … there is no more landing at Inagua now than there was in the days of Columbus. All [the ?] night we could hear the waves dashing up on the cliffs and up the little beach; the breakers still washed rather high although there was no storm. However we ladies were carried ashore by the Captain except S. O. J. who watched for a chance and deftly jumped and ran."

from Auntie ... Mrs. Lind: Usually, when Jewett refers to "Auntie," she means her great aunt, Helen Gilman. Key to Correspondents. The identity of Mrs. Lind is unknown.

electric lights ... ice machine: The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority says that electric lighting was introduced to the island in 1893. Dr. John Gorrie (1803 -1855) patented the first ice-making machine in the United States in 1851. For a detailed history of ice-making in the nineteenth century, see J. F. Nickerson, "The Development of Refrigeration in the United States," especially, pp. 170-1, in *Ice and Refrigeration*, Volume 49, Nickerson & Collins Company, 1915.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman & Mary Rice Jewett

Cape St. Nicholas Mole Haiti.*
Tuesday 18th February

Dear Girls

This is the third letter I haven't been able to mail! At San Domingo* we thought we were pretty sure of catching a steamer but when caught we found that letters sent by it wouldn't get to New York before the fifth or sixth of March. So we came along letters in [*and ?*] all, but at Nassau they will have to look out an extra mail bag. Today we are left here in this nice snug harbor by a Norther which is raining a great rain and blowing up the sea outside. We are making our way as fast as we can to Nassau but it is a long stretch and oh so rough all the way along the South coast of San Domingo & Haiti! We had two quite awful nights when the minute you got to sleep a great

[*Page 2*]

roll would bang you awake again. Your poor sister has often thought of her nice room and the fire in the fireplace those nights before she came away! but everything good costs something as we have heard, and I shall be glad to have seen these lovely places. I was dreadfully disappointed about "the islands,"* but now we are getting near Nassau again and I hope again for letters and so those woes are put by.

There is a schooner from Tenants Harbor anchored close by us loading with logwood, or from St. George which is the same thing.* Isn't it funny? We have seen ~~a~~ Rockland schooner several times.

Thursday

We have had to lie here two days more until the Norther blew itself out and now tonight we are going on, I suppose to be

[*Page 3*]

rolled about more, but it is only two days to Nassau and then I shall feel quite near to you all, and I hope to find some letters. The last one I had from you was at Kingston the 30th of Jan and dated the 24th so it is almost a month. I have thought of telegraphing but I knew you would get all the news there was from Lilian's [despatches *so spelled*], and at a dollar & eighty-seven cents a word your ideas seem to fly away! We have been reading the life of Columbus* all of us and ^getting^ so interested because he was right here in these little harbors that we have learned to know so well and even named them all. It has been cold these last few days so that I took heart to get out my worsted work and have been much stayed with

[*Page 4*]

the pleasure of doing it though I haven't got the black sprigs all filled in yet.

We went ashore day before yesterday and saw the funniest little mardi gras procession with masks and red things over their heads dancing in the streets with pipe & drum.* Coloured children & some bigger ones who danced ahead and twirled and then went back again. It was so wild looking somehow. There was a huge old fort here which has all crumbled down and this poor village seems to be cobbled up out of the ruins. The President* gave us a mongoose in a cage at San Domingo & we had great fun with it at first but it drooped

under sea faring so today the chief engineer & a 'boy' rowed ashore and let him out. Bridget is quite bereft. I shall leave this envelope open to add

[Down from the left margin in the top margin of page 1]

a word later as we hope now to get to Nassau Sunday morning & I think the mail doesn't go until Monday.

Notes

Cape St. Nicholas Mole Haiti: Wikipedia says: "Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas landed at the site of what is now Môle-Saint-Nicolas on December 6, 1492.... Vestiges of colonial forts can be found in several locations: Batteries de Vallières, Fort Georges, Saint-Charles, La Poudrière, Le Fort Allemand, Les Ramparts. Ruine Poudrière is an old magazine built sometime in the 1750s."

Jewett left an unfinished sketch entitled "The Cape St. Nicholas Mole \ Hayti Story," held by the Houghton Library in Sarah Orne Jewett compositions and other papers, 1847-1909. MS Am 1743.22 (10). Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

In her diary of 13 - 15 February, Fields details the *Hermione's* stay in Santo Domingo.

"the islands": The original goal of the *Hermione* was the Windward Islands, the Lesser Antilles, between Puerto Rico and Venezuela, but bad weather prevented their steaming so far south.

Rockland schooner: Jewett and Fields had spent part of the summer of 1895 at Tenants Harbor, ME, the village which bears some resemblance to Dunnet Landing in *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896), which was appearing in serial while Jewett was sailing with the *Hermione.* St. George and Rockland ME are on the peninsula north of Tenants Harbor, St. George about 5 miles, Rockland about 14 miles.

the life of Columbus: The voyagers were reading Washington Irving's *A History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (1828).

mardi gras: In her February 18 diary, Fields wrote: "It was Mardi gras and a little procession of a dozen boys ^and girls^ or perhaps they were all boys dressed as women, and a few children ^all^ in the simplest disguises danced fantastically to tom-toms up and down the open ways between the huts -- when their noise stopped a perfect silence of the wilderness settled down. The gaily dressed figures stood out against the dark mountain-sides, clothed with green to the summit and black with cloud and vapor which lie behind and make a background to the place."

President: In her diary of 13-15 February, Fields described the party's dinner with Louis Mondestin Florvil Hyppolite, President of the Dominican Republic. Wikipedia says "Mongoose is the popular English name for 29 of 34 species in the 14 genera of the family *Herpestidae*, which are small carnivores that are native to southern Eurasia and mainland Africa." They are an introduced species in the Caribbean.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Carolyn Jewett Eastman and Mary Rice Jewett

Nassau Tuesday Morning
[*25 February 1896*]*

Dear Girls

We are so delighted to get in -- and after all our fears of the long stretch & head wind{,} the last day & night proved better than the first -- I am hoping to get letters this morning -- and you can't think how long the weeks seem without a telegram or anything. We are anchored opposite the barracks this time and I now hear an early

[*Page 2*]

bugle. After this we get letters nice and often. Keep sending them to 148 State St. to Talbot* -- until I say not, because they will be telegraphing & knowing just where we are. It seems so near to what it has been! that I feel as if I could almost speak across.

Ever so much love
from A. F. & me.

Notes

1896: According to *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive, the *Hermione* party returned to Nassau on Monday, 24 February 1896.

Talbot: One of the twin sons of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Aldrich. The sons have remained at home, while the parents travel with Fields and Jewett on this cruise.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England in Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Augusta Jewett Eastman and Mary Rice Jewett, Jewett Family Papers: MS014.01.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

27 February 1896
Nassau

[*Begin letterhead*]*
STEAM YACHT HERMIONE
[*End letterhead*]

My dear Loulie

It is so nice to be able to send letters three times a week after being obliged to wait more than three weeks to find a working post office that I must write you again by the next mail which goes tomorrow. We are having some lovely days in this charming harbor and I begin to forget our long stretch of rough weather and rolling about in the Caribbean Sea. The Royal Victoria Hotel here is a really charming place, and we came back to find its emptiness of last month filled with gay English people & Americans and more roses in bloom than we left -- and, what I like very much, clear fresh air with a

[*Page 2*]

touch of north wind like the best days in June. When we were here before it was the worst of dog days and very trying to your friend who hates a south wind in August -- A.F. blooms out in the same and never seems to mind. I think she is a little bit cool today while I am blooming, but this is all we know of winter weather at home. Your letter yesterday (which we both cared very much for) gave us such a picture of it and I agree with you that we are both better away. I have had a good bit of trouble from my last winters illness as it is, and I dont know what I should have done at home. And A.F. was certainly not strong enough to confront the weather. But how often our hearts fly home

[*Page 3*]

before us I cannot try to say. I sometimes feel as if nothing would persuade me to be away at such a distance and so out of reach again. And with the knowledge of pain and worry and sorrow going on with those we love the distance seems double. Thank heaven! things have been going well at home ^in Berwick^ so far as my letter told yesterday.

= I suppose that we shall go to Florida in a few days now and so be much nearer home than this. I shall be delighted to see St. Augustine again.

Loulie I have bought you a little present of a small dry fish all over sharp spikes with a lovely expression to his countenance. You hang him up by a thread and I know you will think he is very very beautiful. No one can appreciate him better

[*Page 4*]

and he is so small that it will not be an inconvenience to receive him. I long to give him to you . . . . . My hopes of buying at least a hundred beautiful baskets in Curacao and Dominica & Martinique were doomed to disappointment as you know, but the fish will ever speak to you of my affection, and be so lovely to an Artist's eye. I seem to dwell upon the thought of him.

Mrs. Fields sends you and dear Mrs. Dresel her best love -- we talk of you both very often. I shall let you know as soon as we know that we are coming home, and write again before that if I can.

Yours most affectionately
S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

We are anchored close by the barracks and there is a great deal of bugle-calling across the water -- I should think that an Artist would like to paint cocoanut palms { -- } they look so easy to do to the ignorant eye{.}

Notes

letterhead: Jewett has drawn in ink a horizontal palm tree, with the top over the letterhead and the base at the right margin. Presumably this is connected to her postscript, appearing in the margins of the same page.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

March 4, 1896.

I think I have not written much of late, you seemed to be out of reach of letters, and beside I have been in a great valley of silence in which I seemed to have learned much that I knew not of before. I have been alone long days together; I have worked and dreamed, and have felt the days blessed and the lesson of continuance begun.

Notes

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Louise Imogen Guiney to Annie Adams Fields

[*5 March 1896*]*

Dear Mrs. Fields,

I am so glad you are within hail again! I sent the tickets to Mrs. Tyler,* the day word came by

wire. I was on the point of writing you at Charles St., asking on the envelope that the letter might be kept, so that I might know the moment you got home, and in what manner I was to dispose of the aforesaid passports to Elysium.* But I am vehemently gratified that you are not coming home at present, for the weather is unbearable. Yesterday and today are "the cruellest of occasions":* drifts anywhere from an inch to ten feet deep, and biting cold thrown in. So linger in your warm nest,* and avoid the Tellurian year* in these parts,

Huit mois d'hiver,
Quat' mois d'enfer!*

As for your good times, afloat and ashore,

[*Page 2*]

I know they must melt in the mouth, and are too delicate delicious for speech. . like the Pomes by S.O.J.,* which, I have no doubt in the world got written, among your colored isles.

The world wags pleasantly by at last, hereabouts. Mothers keep well, and Post-offices ride the wave, leaving all sharks far behind. I have been with Mrs. Barnard* to see Romeo and Juliet done beautifully by Mr. and Mrs. Taber;* I have even passed a night at Scituate, and helped Tom Meteyard,* in the morning, to bury his brother Casman in a snow-bank. These make up my play-time since you went, if you add them to the memorable Saturday-night orgies. Once I was late, once absent; but for all I had and might have had, I thank you ever. At odd moments I try to edit that difficult Mangan.* And I have accepted a very kind proposal of Mr. Warner's,* to do

[*Page 3*]

the Keats introduction and selection of his giant Library. It is as bold as the issue of a Confederate bond in 1861,* which comes payable in 1899; but perhaps, by adroit diplomacy, I may somehow and somewhere secure the leisure and solitude, and be as good as my word. Which reminds me that I must tell you, bye and bye, what we hope to do, in the summer. I must stop, for I weep as I write, at noon of March 5th, in my study. There is a painter-man in the hall with pots and pans, and the aroma thereof stings "these spectacles"; which you will remember is Mackesay's optic idiom.* Our good Governor* died this morning, and I have just run up one flag to half-staff. Best love to you and Miss Jewett.

Yours always,
Louise I. Guiney

Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Notes

1896: This letter pairs with Guiney to Fields of 5 August 1896. In early March of 1896, Fields, along with Sarah Orne Jewett was just returning from two often grueling months of cruising in the Caribbean.

Mrs. Tyler: Possibly Augusta Maria Denny Tyler. Key to Correspondents.

Elysium: A paradise after death in ancient Greek religion.

"the cruellest of occasions": Why this is in quotation marks is not known.

warm nest: On 4 March 1896, Jewett wrote to her sisters from Nassau, Bahamas, after two weeks of no communication, during which she and Fields, along with cruising companions, were confined to the northern coast of Haiti by rough weather. Guiney's sunny view of their Caribbean island tour shows her not aware of the weather conditions they endured while at sea. See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024), available at the Internet Archive.

Tellurian year: the time required for the planet Earth to circle the sun.

d'enfer: French saying: Eight months of winter; four months of hell.

Mrs. Barnard: This person has not yet been identified.

Romeo and Juliet ... Mr. and Mrs. Taber: American actors Julia Marlowe (1865-1950) and Robert Taber (1865-1904) married in 1894 and divorced in 1900. Both had successful careers, often performing together in plays of British playwright William Shakespeare (1564-1616), such as *Romeo and Juliet*.

Tom Meteyard ... Casman: These transcriptions are uncertain; these persons have not been identified.

difficult Mangan: Irish poet, James Clarence Mangan (1803-1849). Guiney's *James Clarence Mangan: His Selected Poems and a Study* appeared in 1897.

Mr. Warner's ... the Keats introduction: Charles Dudley Warner (Key to Correspondents) organized *The Library of the World's Best Literature*, a 30 volume anthology. Guiney eventually contributed a critical and biographical introduction to the British poet, John Keats (1795-1821).

1861: Bonds issued by the Confederate States of America in 1861 were worthless in 1899, long after

the Confederacy was defeated in the American Civil War (1861-1865).

Mackesay's optic idiom: The transcription of "Mackesay" is uncertain; Guiney's allusion has not yet been identified.

good Governor: Frederic Thomas Greenhalge (1842- 5 March 1896), a Massachusetts politician, died during his third term as governor of the state.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection Box 25: mss FI 1547.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Letterhead of decorated initials,* TWH]
[Cambr' Mass *?*]
March 8. 1896*

My dear Miss Jewett

That last paper* of yours is perfectly fascinating -- your trip to the island -- nothing in Deephaven is more redolent of bayberry & wild roses; & the previous one had a superbly [mild *?*] conception -- the old captain's Children of the mist. But are you sure you are right in putting a gaff to a spritsail? All the dory sails I ever saw (& I hv. often sailed in them at Pigeon Cove) were sprit sails proper, with the slender slanting sprit supporting them transversely

[*Page 2*]*

& a slender boom below both rolled into the sail & laid against the mast when unshipped. A gaff at the top of the sail would have to be held up by halyards, from ^ [near *?*] ^ the top of the [shaft *?*], beginning a taller & solider mast. Yet you are so at home on the seashore that I can't doubt you "interested yourself" on the matter, & may be describing some sub-order of dories, perhaps as localized as the lateen-sailed boats which used to be seen on the river at Portsmouth & above, but now have [gone *?*]. We have a dory to this day on Monadnock Lake at Dublin N.H. (brought from E. Gloucester) & if you know my wife's graceful verses "The Anchored Dories"* you will know that they are near to our hearts.

Ever cordially with
best regards to Mrs. Fields
T. W. Higginson

Notes

1896: Apparently in another hand, someone has indicated an insertion before the numeral 6, and above the date has written a question mark within parentheses. Presumably the reader was unable to read the numeral 9, and no wonder, for it is quite unclear. I have inferred that number from the contents of the letter. See notes below.

paper: Higginson refers to Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896). The first installment of its serialization appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in January 1896, and included Captain Littlepage's story of strange beings near the North Pole. The second installment in March included the account of the narrator's visit with the Blacketts on Green Island. See Jewett to Higginson of 9 April 1896.

Page 2: Higginson includes two drawings on this page to illustrate his point about sprit sails. Jewett did not respond to this letter until 9 April 1896.

"The Anchored Dories": The poem by Mary Potter Thacher Higginson (1844-1941) appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in April 1893. It was collected in *Such as They Are* (1893), poems by Thomas and Mary Higginson. See also Find a Grave.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911. 1 letter; 1896. (95).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc to Annie Adams Fields

[*Mid-March 1896*]*

Most dear Annie, I read with sympathy the thrilling story of your trip, and I pity you for having suffered so much. But I am sure that once you return to Boston, well and safe, where I am dying to hear from you, you will remember only the tropical beauties, which you

[*Page 2*]

at least got to see, and the best memories of your perilous voyage. You say you'll only take a steamer next time. Oh, my dear, grant that this next time come soon. Come this spring to Paris. I have put off my trip to Russia by a year, and here

[*Page 3*]

is what I propose to you: that you and Sarah stay in my apartment while I am at La Ferté, where you will come to me when you tire of enjoying spring in Paris. I will come to you often. La Ferté is only an hour away, -- while you occupy my snug little place,*

[*Page 4*]

where I will leave all that you need, even my maid if you want her, for I have another in La Ferté. She is thrifty and practiced and familiar with the neighborhood; finally, she will take good care of you. Please accept. Keep in mind that this gives me no shadow of difficulty or expense, that

[*Page 5*]

I will be happy, so happy to be able to save you the trouble of a hotel, that you will be comfortable (don't judge my lodging in the Place V. Hugo according to the encampment in Rue de Grenelle.)* I await your "yes." You must come this year! Nothing will restore you better than this trip. And if you prefer fall, I can make you

[*Page 6*]

the same offer until the end of October, but the spring is so much prettier. However, the fall in Paris and a winter in the south (you told me about your dreams of Provence) would also have their charms{.} All seasons would be charming for me if you were here. Dear Sarah insist, I pray, and allow me this celebration. -- I am delighted with the translation in the *Forum*.* Read, dear Annie, the little note on *The Singing Shepherd** in the bibliographic bulletin

[*Cross-written down the left side of page 6*]

in the March Revue. I embrace you tenderly. Mr. Benoist* [*unrecognized word*] your appreciation

[*Cross-written up the right margin of page 6*]

of his articles. He is touched by it.

[*Cross-written from the left on the top half of page 1*
except for the last line which begins on the bottom half]

Alas, your sister* did not come to see me, and there is no Rue Vacquerie.* The flu that caught me again at [*unrecognized word*] has also kept me away from your friend, but I did see Mrs. Bull* and her sister, who brought Sarah's pretty gift.

Notes

1896: Fields, along with Sarah Orne Jewett and others, toured the Caribbean in a steam yacht during January - March 1896. Fields and Jewett did not join Blanc for a long stay in France until 1898, when they toured Provence and Brittany.

place: Blanc speaks metaphorically of her "shell."

Grenelle: Since Fields and Jewett's previous visit to Paris, Blanc apparently has moved into what was then a new and stylish residential building in the 16th arrondissement, at 3 Place Victor Hugo.

Forum: Blanc's essay, "Family Life in America," *Forum* 21 (March 1896), p. 1-20.

Singing Shepherd: Fields's second collection of poems, *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). The notice of which Blanc writes has not yet been located.

Benoist: French journalist, politician and diplomat, Charles Benoist (1861-1936). His articles sometimes appeared in *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

sister: While one cannot yet be certain which of Fields's sisters visited Paris in 1896, the more likely possibility is Sarah Holland Adams. See Fields in Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Bull: Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents. Mrs. Bull had no sisters, but at this time, she had one living sister-in-law, Gidsken Edvardine Bull (1822-1906).

no Rue Vacquerie: While there is no Rue Vacquerie in Paris, there is a Rue Auguste Vacquerie. Perhaps Blanc was involved in a mix-up?

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda mss FI 1-5637, Box 5.

Transcription

Paris 16 Mars

Bien chère Annie
J'ai lu avec émotion
le récit palpitant
de votre voyage
et je vous plains
d'avoir autant
souffert. Mais je
suis sûre qu'une
fois rentrée saine
et sauve à Boston
d'où je grille d'avoir
de vos nouvelles
vous ne vous rappelerez
plus que les beautés
tropicales tout au

[*Page 2*]

moins entrevues et
les meilleurs souvenirs
de votre périlleux
voyage. Vous me dites
que vous ne vous
embarquerez que
sur un steamer
la prochaine fois.
Oh! chère, de grâce
que cette prochaine
fois soit tout de
bon prochaine. Venez
ce printemps à Paris.
J'ai remis d'une
année mon voyage

en Russie et voilà

[*Page 3*]

ce que je vous propose:
d'occuper, vous et
Sarah, mon appartement
tandis que je serai
à La Ferté où vous viendrez
me rejoindre après
vous être bien fatiguée
à jouir du ^Paris^ printanier{.}
J'irai vous voir
souvent{.} La Ferté est
à une heure de
distance, -- même
tandis que vous
occuperez ma coquille

[*Page 4*]

où je laisserai
tout ce qu'il
vous faut et
même ma domestique
si vous la souhaitez
car j'en ai une
autre à La Ferté. Elle
^est économe et entendue et elle^
a les habitudes de
l'endroit; enfin elle vous
soignera bien. Acceptez
de grâce. Songez que
cela n'entraine pas pour
moi l'ombre d'une
difficulté ni d'une
dépense, que

[*Page 5*]

Je serai heureuse,
heureuse, de pouvoir
vous éviter les ennuis
de l'hôtel, que vous
serez enfin confortablement
(n'allez pas juger de
mon gîte place V. Hugo
d'après le campement
de la rue de Grenelle.)
J'attends un bon
oui. Il faut que ce
soit cette année!
Rien ne vous
remettra mieux
que ce voyage. Et
si vous préférez l'automne
je peux vous faire la

[*Page 6*]

même offre jusqu'à
la fin d'Octobre,
mais le printemps
est bien plus joli
cependant l'automne
à Paris et un hiver
dans le midi (vous
m'avez parlé de vos
rêves de Provence) auraient
aussi leurs charme tous
les saisons en auraient
pour moi si vous
étiez là. Chère Sarah
insistez, je vous en
prie, et donnez-
moi cette fête. -- Je suis
enchantée de la traduction
du Forum. Merci. Lisez,
chère Annie la petite note sur
le Singing Shepherd au bulletin

[*Cross-written down the left side of page 6*]

bibliographique de la Revue de Mars. Je vous
embrasse
tendrement. M. Benoist [*unrecognized word*]
votre appreciation

[*Cross-written up the right margin of page 6*]

de ses articles. Il en est touché.

[*Cross-written from the left on the top half of page 1*
except for the last line which begins on the bottom half]

Hélas votre soeur
n'est pas venue
me voir et il
n'y a pas de
rue Vacquerie.
L'influenza qui
m'a reprise à
[*unrecognized word* ?] m'a
aussi éloignée
de votre amie,
mais j'ai vu
Mrs Bull et
la soeur chargée
du joli présent de Sarah{.}

Sarah Orne Jewett probably to Mary Rice Jewett Fragment

Monday morning

[*March 16, 1896*]

[*Begin hotel stationery letterhead*]

Hotel Ponce de Leon
Gillis and Murray, Managers
St. Augustine, Fla.
[*End letterhead*]

Mr. Whitridge* made us a long visitation yesterday afternoon and it is always very pleasant. He was

so funny and despairing about Kate Foot* -- always complaining of something -- cant tell much by what she says ….. he speaks sometimes just like Mr. C. Hobbs* so you would think them same – it gives me such a funny home like feeling you must tell Mr. Hobbs that he is here and so interested to hear all about him and the old place. I promised him one of my snow pictures of the house taken there by the Methodist church and if it isnt too much trouble I wish you would look for it in the box and send it to me. I have had to go all over the Hayes and the Ferguson girls and Jourdin Ferguson and that golden time. You would like Mr. Whitridge. Your sister is so much distracted by the band playing without and beaucoup des personnes* passing up the middle of the court past the fountain and some of them getting the particulars with marked interest* that she cant compose her thoughts to this letty.* Fifteen rooms of Vanderbilts have created a great excitement but they are going to Tampa or some where to-day. There were terrapin for dinner last night. I suppose in the Vanderbilts honor.* This is all the news of today.

Sarah

Notes

Mr. Whitridge: This probably is John Cushing Whitridge (d. 1908), son of William G. and Olive (Cushing) Whitridge, was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and lived in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he died in 1908.

The following biographical sketch of his son, Frederick Wallingford Whitridge (1852-1916), is from *Encyclopedia of Biography of New York* Volume 5. It indicates that members of John Cushing Whitridge's family lived in South Berwick. This makes it understandable that he would remember childhood visits there and would be familiar with local families such as "the Hayes and the Ferguson girls and Jourdin Ferguson." Such visits would have taken place during the childhoods of Sarah and Mary Jewett, but it sounds as if Mary has not met Whitridge.

> WHITRIDGE, Frederick Wallingford, Lawyer, Railroad President.
> Frederick W. Whitridge springs from New England ancestors, and partakes of the qualities of thrift and enterprise which have distinguished the people of that section for three centuries. The founder of the family in this country was William Whitridge, born 1599, died December 9, 1688, came to America in the ship "Elizabeth" in 1625, with his wife, Elizabeth, born 1605, and son, Thomas, from Beninden, County Kent, England....
> Thomas Whitridge, son of William and Elizabeth Whitridge, born 1625, was living in Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1648, and had a wife, Florence, who died in 1672.
> Their son, William Whitridge, born 1659, resided in Rochester, Massachusetts, and was the father of Thomas Whitridge, born there November 12, 1710, died March 7, 1795. His intention of marriage to Hannah Haskell was entered September 1, 1733.
> Their third son. Dr. William Whitridge, was born February 13, 1748, in Rochester; settled at Tiverton, Rhode Island, in 1780, dying there April 5, 1831. In 1791 he received the honorary degree of Master of Arts from Yale College, and in 1823 received the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine from Harvard University. He married Mary Cushing, born July 21, 1759, in Scituate, Massachusetts, died in Tiverton, March 17. 1846.
> They had a large family of children born in Tiverton. Of these, the second son, William Cushing Whitridge, was born November 25, 1784, in Tiverton, and became a physician, practicing many years with great success in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He married his cousin, Olive Cushing, born February 20, 1783, in Boston, eldest daughter and fifth child of **John and Olive (Wallingford) Cushing, of South Berwick, Maine**, died September 9, 1876.
> **John Cushing Whitridge**, son of William G. and Olive (Cushing) Whitridge, was born in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and lived in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he died in 1908. He married Lucia Shaw Bailey, daughter of John G. Bailey, of Newport, Rhode Island, and they were the parents of Frederick Wallingford Whitridge.
> Frederick Wallingford Whitridge was born August 5, 1852, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he grew up, and received his primary education in the public schools. Entering Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, he was graduated A. B. in 1874, following which he entered Columbia Law School in New York City, from which he received the degree of LL. B. in 1877. In that year he was admitted to the New York bar, but did not engage in active practice. For some years he was lecturer in the school of political science attached to Columbia University, and is one of the founders of the Civil Service Reform Association. Mr. Whitridge has given his talents and energies to the development and progress of many business enterprises, and is now a director of the Niagara Development Company and the Cataract Construction Company. He is and has been for several years receiver and president of the Third Avenue Railroad Company of New York City. In religion he is an Episcopalian, and in politics independent of

party dictation. On the occasion of the marriage of King Alfonso of Spain to Princess Victoria Eugenie of England, Mr. Whitridge was appointed by the President as special ambassador to attend the ceremonies as representative of the United States. He has been an occasional contributor to magazines on various subjects, and has demonstrated a large amount of business ability and versatility in other directions. He is a member of several clubs, including the University, Knickerbocker, Metropolitan, City, Downtown Players, Century and Westchester County clubs.

He married, in 1884, Lucy Arnold, daughter of Matthew and Lucy (Wightman) Arnold, and they have children: Arnold, Eleanor, Joan. For a quarter of a century the family has resided in the same house on East Eleventh street, New York City, and the summers are spent in the Scottish Highlands, where Mr. Whitridge is the owner of a beautiful estate.

Kate Foot: This person has not yet been identified. A possible candidate is Kate Grant Knowlton Foote (1860-1943). She was the daughter of Kate Andrea Knowlton (1835-1908) and sister of Edward Ellery Knowlton (1863-1889). She married Unitarian Church musician, Arthur William Foote (1853-1937) in Boston in 1880. They had at least one child, Katharine Foote Raffy (1881-1970).

C. Hobbs: This may be Charles C. Hobbs (1835-1917), local historian in South Berwick. He is a grandson of Olive Wallingford Cushing of South Berwick, as is Frederick Wallingford Whitridge.

It is possible however, that Jewett refers to South Berwick grocer, Charles E. Hobbs (1844-1941). See Business Block, the Old Berwick Historical Society

the Hayes … golden time: The Hayes and Ferguson families were old and prominent South Berwick families. As indicated above, "the golden time" is likely to include time Frederick Whitridge spent with family in South Berwick during his childhood.

distracted The Ponce de Leon was one of the hotels that regularly employed bands to entertain guests during the winter season. It appears Jewett wrote in the loggia or in a room that faces the courtyard and fountain, with windows open, allowing her to hear the band, and people passing and gossiping.

beaucoup des personnes: French. Many people.

Fifteen rooms of Vanderbilts: Thomas Graham reports in Chapter 17 of *Mr. Flagler's St. Augustine*, that in March of 1896, Cornelius Vanderbilt reserved nearly 20 rooms for "a huge retinue of friends." He quotes a contemporary: "Mr. Vanderbilt is very unassuming, the ladies and gentlemen going about in the most democratic fashion while here." But he notes that "the Vanderbilts usually dined upstairs in a private room set up for them, with their own headwaiter to bring up dishes from the main kitchen below."

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Undated Letters, Folder 75, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[16 March 1896 *penciled in another hand*]
Monday Morning in the train

[*Begin hotel stationery letterhead*]
Hotel Ponce de Leon
Gillis and Murray, Managers
St. Augustine, Fla.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mary

Here we are all started and so pleased to be going home, though it is so very pleasant to stay at our fine palace of the Ponce de Leon. Who do you think saw us to the train but Mr. & Mrs. Edmunds!* Who came up from the south where he had been fishing -- with such a sunburnt nose and great friendliness. They [came *? written over another word*] Saturday night but we didn't see

[*Page 2*]

them until yesterday morning since when we have played together pretty steadily. They were so sorry we were coming away for they mean to stay until Saturday and your sister is decked with violets presented by old Mr. Whitridge* -- who was delightful to the last & hopes to come to S Berwick -- some time. He had seen the Berwick paper in the New England* & couldn't say enough about it -- I really enjoyed him very much -- I dare say we shall find it cold on getting home but we dont

[*Page 3*]

much care & mean to be careful. We shall not stay long in New York. I am afraid from what you say that I am not likely to find you there but we can "play something else" -- A. F. interpolates a grateful message about <u>the bonnet</u> which she appreciates all over again ^it^ having been laid aside in the warm season for Madame Howard's hat* --

-- As we go along all the pear trees & cherry trees look

[*Page 4*]

so pretty in full bloom. I wonder how far the Hermione* has got through the big seas.

I am going to post this at Jacksonville.* We hope to reach the Albemarle tomorrow afternoon{.}* The train gets in between three & four.

With ever so much love.

Sarah.

Mr. Whitridge was so pleased with the pictures you sent -- of the house. Perhaps you could

[*Up the left side of page 1*]

come up to 148* to meet us. A. F. just came out with the same [wish *written over letters*] -- It would give you [a *written over letters*] nice little change. "prepared to stay a few days" A. F. says!!

Notes

Mr. & Mrs. Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828 - 1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont. In 1852 he married Susan Marsh (1831-1916); they had two daughters, Mary (1854-1936) and Julia (1861-1882). Jewett and Fields enjoyed friendly association with the family during their 1888 stay in Aiken, SC. See the letters of March 1888.

Mr. Whitridge: See note above on John Cushing Whitridge [March 16, 1896 Monday Morning].

Berwick paper …New England: Jewett's historical essay, "The Old Town of Berwick" appeared in *New England Magazine* in July 1894.

Madame Howard's hat: In the 1890s, Mme. Howard operated a millinery shop at 6 Beacon Street off Charles Street, Boston. Images of some her more elaborate creations may be found at Pinterest.

Hermione: Jewett and her friends have recently returned from a cruise aboard Henry L. Pierce's steam yacht, the *Hermione*.

Jacksonville: In northern Florida.

Albemarle: The Albemarle Hotel, Madison Square West, New York City. See letters below.

This manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England, Sarah Orne Jewett, letters to Mary Rice Jewett, Jewett, (Theodora) Sarah Orne (1849-1909), sister, January 4, 1896 - April 15, 1896\n Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 11.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*17 March 1896*] [*Date penciled in another hand*]
Tuesday Evening

[*Begin hotel letterhead*]
Albemarle Hotel,*
Madison Square West,
New York.
O. B. Libbey, Prop'r.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mary.

Our long stretch is over and we got here just before dark an hour or so late which isn't very much for a southern train. I had my cold come back with seven others -- (or caught a new one I dont know which) and last night and today have seemed pretty long. I had a brow-ago almost -- like the one John had once* so that I could hardly see all day and the sun on the snow blinded me to pieces, but now I am here and we have a good supper of some tea &

[*Page 2*]

bread & butter broiled together and feel much better so as to take notice. Your dear letter and Stubbys met me when I came and as I finished my supper first I had such a good time reading. And they were appreciated by 2 [ants *so spelled*]. Only think of dear Cousin Maria's* having come! I can seem to see her sitting by the window -- and I hope to really see her in a [very *?*] few days -- (I wish you could run up for one night to go & see the portraits with me. Stubby would come over and pass the night to keep company.)

I shall come right home (unless the Hermione* has got in before me) and then I shall have to

[*Page 3*
2nd sheet of stationery]

come back to get my things for Mrs. Fields & Lilian will be busy enough and I have got stowaway shells, beside a share of shells in common. How I wish I had a lot of lovely things to bring you all! I was sure of great shoppings in "The Windward Islands" -- but almost everywhere we went the things in the stores were from here & poor looking, and we could rarely find nice shells and were always told of tortoise shell & baskets down the islands. But you would forgive a sister if she came home pleasant I felt sure! (A. F. sends her love. She was hoping to see you as much as I, but we can make other arrangements.)

[*Page 4*]

We like the hotel very much you know the old Brevoort people* are here, and we have got such nice little rooms with a bathroom up one flight just what we like

= I dont know how I shall feel about staying on -- if my cold troubles me as much as today I had rather go right on, for there is a lot of melting snow, and I couldn't get about. But it does feel ameliorated tonight. I wish you could see the puckers in my green dress! -- I don't think you ever saw so many but I had to do it up to keep the damp out & keep it in a locker. Goodbye with much love to all.

from Sarah.

Notes

Albemarle Hotel: A 1904 ad in *McClure's Magazine* 22 (p. 27), describes the Albemarle: "The location of this house is most desirable, being central to all places of amusement and convenient to the shopping district. O. B. Libbey, Prop., (for twenty-five years at the Brevoort House.)" *Historic Hotels of the Village* says: "The Hotel Brevoort was built in 1845 by the Brevoort family, owners of a large tract of land stretching from 5th Avenue to the Bowery and extending north of 14th Street. The hotel was demolished in 1954 and a new residential building, aptly named the Brevoort, still stands today. The hotel, and its later café, were frequented by heads of state as well as Village artists and writers."

brow-ago: Presumably Jewett is fancifully spelling "brow ague," referring to neuralgic pain in the temple, as in a sinus headache.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Cousin Maria: Blanchard, in *Sarah Orne Jewett*, mentions a Cousin Maria (p. 36) as residing in Portsmouth, NH. Probably this is Maria Parker Perry Robinson (1817-1912), mentioned in other letters as the mother by her first marriage of a childhood friend of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Captain William Gardner Shackford (1840-1907).

Hermione: The Windward Islands were the intended destination of the exhausting cruise from which Jewett and Fields had just returned.

Brevoort people: See note above for the Albemarle Hotel.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 4.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*18 March 1896*]* [*Date penciled in another hand*]

Wednesday

[*Begin hotel letterhead*]
Albemarle Hotel,
Madison Square West,
New York.
O. B. Libbey, Prop'r.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mary,

I just send a word to say that my cold still rages and you might hear loud sneezes if you listened, but I hope to be out tomorrow. It seemed wiser to keep in though it is a lovely day -- I suppose this will delay our getting back as I want to do a few errands against my summer clothes. There are those who have been as far as Stern's* this morning, and had a beautiful time. I was so

[*Page 2*]

much obliged for your letter & Becca's{.} Give my love to her & to Liddy* and to "all" -----

In haste

Sarah

I do hope Cousin Fanny & Auntie* can come -- We'll have a great time.

Notes

Stern's: Wikipedia says: "Stern Brothers was founded in 1867 by Isaac, Louis and Benjamin Stern, sons of German Jewish immigrants. In that year, they began selling dry goods in Buffalo, New York. From these humble beginnings, the Stern Brothers became an important merchandising family in New York City." Beginning in 1878, their new flagship store in NYC "was noted for its cast-iron facade at 32 to 36 West 23rd Street and 23 to 35 West 22nd Street."

Becca ... Liddy: Rebecca Young (Key to Correspondents). Liddy has not yet been identified.

Cousin Fanny & Auntie: For Jewett, "Auntie" usually means Mrs. Helen Williams Gilman (1817-1905). Key to Correspondents.

Cousin Fanny (sometimes Fannie) would then be Frances F. Perry (1861-1953), Jewett's mother's niece, the daughter of Dr. William G. Perry and Lucretia M. Fisk. See Cary, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 5.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

[*19 March 1896*] [*Date penciled in another hand*]
Thursday

[*Begin hotel letterhead*]
Albemarle Hotel,
Madison Square West,
New York.
O. B. Libbey, Prop'r.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mary

I feel better today but it is a great rain so there is no thought of going out. It is a good thing to have this great cold over, so that I can start fair when I get home. I don't think we shall go until Saturday at any rate. There are those who are so pleasant Mary and ran out to 23rd St. this morning between the drops. Dont have the company from [Exeter *? written over letters*] *

[*Page 2*]

until next week -- I should be so distressed to miss a beautiful occasion. Thank you so much for the Transcript* [re *?*] -- they have beguiled a poor sister much this day. Susan Travers* has been here, as nice as ever and I haven't been unhappy though I should like to have spent the day at the Metropolitan museum!* We have been counting on this couple of days for some time -- A. F. sends her love -- With much love to all

Sarah.

Notes

*company from Exete*r: Several of Jewett's mother's family, the Perrys, resided in Exeter, NH. See above the 18 March letter to Mary.

Transcript: The Boston *Evening Transcript*.

Susan Travers: Key to Correspondents.

Metropolitan museum: Wikipedia says: "The New York State Legislature granted the Metropolitan Museum of Art an Act of Incorporation on April 13, 1870 'for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said City a Museum and Library of Art, of encouraging and developing the Study of the Fine Arts, and the application of Art to manufacture and natural life, of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and to that end of furnishing popular instruction and recreations.'

The museum first opened on February 20, 1872, housed in a building located at 681 Fifth Avenue in New York City."

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 6, Folder 3, Letter 6.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Monday
[23-26 *March, 1896*]*

My dearest Loulie

I am so grieved to think that I cannot get to see you today but I am so miserable yet after last week's illness in New York and so anxious not to fall ill again here that I can do nothing but stay in by the fire. A few days at home will set me up and then

[*Page 2*]

I can come back. It would be too much for dear A.F. to have me upon her hands again ... A touch of the grippe* or whatever it was has made me very shaky & useless. But I think and think of you dear and somehow live over again my waiting and watching like yours, of three or

[*Page 3*]

four years ago. I hope you will feel something of the love and nearness I feel for you Loulie dear and that I can be really nearer to you in every sense later on.

Send for your "Aunties" dear. -- I hope your aunt 'Kiddy'* will be well enough to come to you. It will be the greatest comfort you can give her

[*Page 4*]

in what ~~is~~ ^is & will be^ a ~~great sorrow~~* to her to have you turn right to her -- I learned this myself, for I think one is mistaken in trying to 'save' people -- She will want to be 'the one' as children say --- they all will. I dare say you would think of this before me, but you know I am older and alas I know! And I hate to think of you alone though one must be alone no matter.

[*Up the left side and down the top margin of page 1*]

how many there are ... And when the suffering is all done you will feel a great peace as if it shone back to you from the new life just beginning.

with love and thought of you. S. O. J.

Notes

23-26 March 1896: Almost certainly, Jewett refers in this letter to the death of Louisa Dresel's mother, Anna Loring on 23 March 1896. Jewett implies that the weather is chilly, making it hard for her to go out as she recovers from her recent illness in New York, probably following her grueling winter 1896 cruise in a stormy Caribbean. This would be another reason why she would not want to burden Annie Fields, who also was exhausted by the cruise. Jewett does not mention Dresel's mother, but suggests turning to her aunts

for comfort. Further, the reference to Louisa watching for Jewett a few years earlier (actually about 4 and one half), is likely a reference to the death of Jewett's mother in October of 1891.

'Kiddy': Caroline Howard King (1822-1909), called "Kiddy" by her family, was born in Salem, lived there until 1866, then for thirty years in Boston, after which she returned for the rest of her life to Salem. She authored *When I Lived in Salem 1822-1866* (Brattleboro, Vt., 1937) -- for which Dresel wrote the preface. See Jewett to King of Late March 1896.

great sorrow: Louisa's father died in July 1890, her mother on 23 March 1896.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Howard King*

148 Charles Street
Thursday
[23-26 *March 1896*]

Dear Cousin Caroline

I thought of you when I first waked up this morning, and with so much love -- I wish that I could say anything that would give you a little comfort in so great a loss* but I cannot help remembering that your own love and memory comfort you best. And there does come such a new feeling of nearness, and

[*Page 2*]

complete understanding. I sometimes think that mis-understanding is the only thing to fear! -- and all that is forever swept away. I like to think that Loulie is with you -- it is a blessing to her and will be her best comfort.

Please do not forget that my heart is with you, even if I cannot go.

Yours very affectionately and with dear remembrance of her --

Sarah

[*Page 3*]

I hope to see Mrs Cabot* today.

Notes

Caroline Howard King: While it is not certain that this letter is addressed to Caroline Howard King, it seems likely, and if that is the case, this may another of several letters Jewett wrote upon the occasion of the death of Louisa Dresel's mother on 23 March 1896. Key to Correspondents. The recipient and this date remain somewhat uncertain because King is not yet known to be related to Jewett. She was sister to Dresel's grandmother.

Mrs. Cabot: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Friday March 27th
[*1896*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

My dear Loulie

You are so often in my thoughts -- after all, one sometimes comes nearer by thinking than by speech and if I were still in town I could not go to see you. I think of you particularly today when you will be finding it very strange to have all hurry at end, and that there are fewer things coming to you for decisions. You and Ellis* have had to decide things more and more in these last months

[*Page 2*]

and have grown used to new cares. One does get used to all that and to taking responsibilities -- it is when new and unforeseen conditions come that you will be always thinking that she would know about them. I believe I miss my mother's* counsel much more in new affairs than in familiar ones.

-- I wonder if one thing is paining you now as it pained me and if I cannot help you a little. I was so distressed by all I saw my mother go through, and I became aware when she was gone of many sufferings

[*Page 3*]

which I thought I had not felt half enough at the time, and it seemed to me as if they would forever haunt me sleeping and waking. But dear Loulie they do fade out and time is a great healer. If they trouble you now be sure they will not always trouble you. All the piteousness and ignominy of a long illness fades out of mind and will not spoil your peace any more than they will hers. I want to tell you this and to tell Ellis. And one learns over again that a larger life opens for us just as it does to the dear one who has

[*Page 4*]

gone; those who are wiser than us help so very much at such times.

I love A. F.'s verse*

Still in thy love I trust

Supreme in Death since deathless is thy essence
For, putting off the dust
Thou hast but blest me with your presence.

I love to think of your dear Aunt Sallie Cary's* being with you -- She came to me that morning like the dearest and kindest of friends, and gave me a bit of sunshine to keep for ever in remembrance. And I know you will be a great comfort to your other Aunties. I send you

[*Written up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

Dr. Morton's* card. She came after I had come home that day & A.F. had gone out. The real feeling of what she wrote in her little message touched me very much and you will like to see it. Goodbye dear Loulie{.} I shall be thinking of you and I shall see you next week.

S.O.J.

Notes

1896: Louisa Dresel's mother, Anna Loring Dresel, died on 23 March 1896.

Ellis: For Ellis Dresel, see Louisa Loring Dresel in Key to Correspondents.

mother's: Jewett's mother, Caroline Frances Perry died on 21 October 1891.

A. F.'s verse: Annie Adams Fields. Her poem, "Still in Thy Love I Trust" appears in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). Jewett quotes the first stanza.

Aunt Sallie Cary's: Sarah Gray Cary (1830-1898) was a younger sister of Elizabeth Cabot Cary Agassiz. Key to Correspondents. Though Louisa's mother was a close friend of the Cary family, no evidence has yet been found to establish that she was a relative. Therefore, it appears the "Aunt" is an honorary term in this case. See Lucy Allen Paton, *Elizabeth Cary Agassiz: A Biography* (1919).

Dr. Morton's: Dr. Helen Morton. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian and Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Saturday

148 Charles St.
[*28 March 1896*]*

Welcome home! dearest Lily -- and dear T.B.!

I am sending back the little trunk with a heartfelt thanks not only for this but for all you have both done to make us happy during the Cruise -- "Everybody loves you", or could would and should who shared the fortunes of the "Hermione." Sarah has been quite

[*Page 2*]

poorly. [*deletion*] She has now gone to South Berwick to return in another week.

your loving
Annie Fields.

Notes

1896: Fields refers to the Caribbean cruise of Fields and Jewett in the company of the Aldriches in the first months of 1896.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Augusta Maria Denny Tyler to Sarah Orne Jewett

9 Hereford St
Saturday
[*April 1896*]*

My dear Sarah

I am going to leave two books lent by Mary. Also the tickets for all of which we give heartfelt thanks. The tickets did not come to us until <u>two</u> concerts back. We are

[*Page 2*]

to go "a sailing" on April 29<u>th</u> for a year.

If you are in Boston do come & look at us.

Lovingly

[A. M. *?*] Tyler

Notes

1896: Tyler and her family are known to have spent a year in Europe in 1896-7. It seems likely that this letter was composed not too long before their departure at the end of April. See "9 Hereford" in Back Bay Houses.

On the blank left half of page one, down vertical to the main text is a note in different ink and a different hand:

Major Rice's journal
The <u>Grubs Story</u> in P. J. (old Caesar)

The transcription of "Grubs" is uncertain. One might expect that these notes refer to the titles of the books Tyler mentions, but the references have not yet been explained.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item 219. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

April 3, 1896. At Sea.

The "deep" wasn't very bad, but somehow I succumbed with more than my usual facility (spite of the presence of dear S. C. W.'s Elixir);* that admirable weapon the Human Will going to pieces as if it were made of flax; and reducing one to terms of which we will not speak for very scorn. But now I have regained a human composure. . . . Not having thought I naturally have not read, till now I find myself wandering in the sweet mystic pages of *Le Tresor des Humbles*,* where I find some words that have much truth and beauty. I think you will have read it too, and will have believed that the soul is entering upon such possessions as are therein described. Ah, how the "dream saves the world," how real is that which lies just out of sight it may be, but not out of feeling.

Notes

S. C. W.'s Elixir: It is probable that a mutual friend, Sarah Cabot Wheelwright, was visiting Whitman at this time. Wheelwright (1835-1917) was an artist, married to Andrew Cunningham Wheelwright. Key to Correspondents.

Le Tresor des Humbles: The Belgian author, Maurice Maeterlinck (1862-1949) wrote *Le Tresor des Humbles* (1896, *The Treasure of the Humble*, trans. 1897), which Wikipedia describes as " a collection of thirteen deeply reflective mystical essays." Presumably, *"dream saves the world"* is from this work, but the quotation has not yet been located.

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Wentworth Higginson

148 Charles Street
Wednesday April 9th [*1896*]*

Dear Colonel Higginson

Your most kind note has been taking a Southern journey on its own account but I glad to say that it has sought the North again and comes to my hand today. I don't know why I said gaff and meant sprit!* I can see the sail as I saw it when I was writing and I know better! You see how much I needed a winter

[*Page 2*]

cruise in the Bahamas and West Indies* to make me more accurate in using a sea phrase?

You give me great pleasure by saying such kind things about the two sketches -- or rather the three sketches.* Mr. Scudder* left out their ^sub^ titles of which I thought best to scatter in now and then at the head of my divisions, but I feel as if some persons would take

[*Page 3*]

the Pointed Firs to be a poor invertebrate sort of serial.

I am truly sorry that you have had such a siege of illness, and I hope that the month since you wrote your letter has done much for you. I think it may seem unsympathetic to suggest that my own diet in ~~the~~ regions of the Caribbean sea on the other side of the republic of Haiti and in the Navassa passage* makes yours of the winter sound

[*Page 4*]

like a banquet! Trade winds taken the wrong way can make a monstrous sea: but when half a dozen of the crew are in the last agonies no wonder that a reflective passenger goes below and reads the letters of Madame de Sévigné* and declines a summons to luncheon.

With kindest regards and a hope that you are much better in these bright spring days

Yours most truly
Sarah O. Jewett

[*Up the left and top margins of page 1*]

I have very good news from Madame Blanc who always keeps kindest remembrance. Her Les Americains Chez Elles has gone through many large editions. It is meant for France but it has pages that are good for America too.

Notes

1896: This letter was composed shortly after Jewett's return from her winter 1896 Caribbean cruise and while *The Country of the Pointed Firs* was appearing in serial in *Atlantic Monthly*.

gaff ... sprit: See Higginson to Jewett of 8 March 1896.

The word "sprit" does not appear in *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, and "gaff" appears only once, in Chapter 8, Green Island. It is exactly the same in the March *Atlantic* installment. It appears that if Higginson caught an error on this

point, Jewett lost track of it as she prepared the book publication.

West Indies: Jewett in the company of Annie Fields and Thomas and Lilian Aldrich were the guests of Henry Pierce on his steam yacht, the *Hermione*, for a January-March 1896 Caribbean cruise.

three sketches: It is not perfectly clear why Jewett identifies three sketches. The second *Atlantic* installment of *The Country of the Pointed Firs* had appeared in March, with chapters 8-11.

Mr. Scudder: Horace Scudder. Key to Correspondents.

Navassa passage: Navassa Island is a small, uninhabited island between Jamaica and Haiti.

letters of Madame de Sévigné: Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, marquise de Sévigné (1626-1696). Her correspondence with her daughter, more than 1500 letters, was published between 1725 and 1734.

Les Americains Chez Elles: Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc published *American Women at Home* in 1896.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA in Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Misc. mss. boxes “J.”

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace E. Scudder

148 Charles Street
Friday afternoon
[*Spring 1896*]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

I thank you for your very kind note -- I have been hoping to go to 4 Park Street every day but I came back ill, and the owner of what you might call either a lame or a game eye, so that both business and pleasure have been neglected. I have

[*Page 2*]

the better part of a new sketch done ^of Mrs. Todd and an island hermitage^ and I shall finish it before I do anything else. --

I hope that you and M^rs^ Scudder have had a good winter, and I shall ask you eagerly for news from Bryn Mawr.*

Yours sincerely,
S. O. Jewett

Notes

1896: It appears that Jewett is working on *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896) then appearing as a serial in *Atlantic Monthly*. She seems to be writing chapter 14, eventually called "The Hermitage," which appeared in July.

Bryn Mawr: Richard Cary notes: "Scudder's daughter Sylvia was in her freshman year at Bryn Mawr College at this time."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 -- Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder, 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

South Berwick
14 April
[*1896*]*

Dear Loulie

I am so sorry to hear indirectly of your being so ill in New York but I hope that you will soon get home and feel better! -- I do so wish that I had had a chance to show you St. Augustine!

-- It is very disappointing isn't it? to see almost nothing of the South one

[*Page 2*]

read about -- the great plantation houses and all that sort of thing -- but they are [there *corrected*] -- as one may find after searching! These eyes have seen Monticello!

I have been ill myself with such a bad cold which seemed to be at least first cousin to the grippe -- I feel quite shaken! Next week

[*Page 3*]

I hope to go to town again however. So I am not going to write you a long letter now, only to send you an affectionate word of greeting with love.

Yours ever faithfully
S. O. J.

Notes

1896: "1891" is penciled in another hand after "14 April." However, it seems probable that this letter was composed in 1896, soon after Jewett's return from a Caribbean cruise that was very hard on her health and left her suffering from a severe cold in April. The cruise had concluded with a stay in St. Augustine, FL, a city that Jewett especially liked, having traveled there in 1888 and 1890. Jewett's wishing she could have shown Dresel the city might suggest that this letter followed upon one of those trips, but in 1888, Jewett remained in the South in April, and in 1890, she had returned by late February. It is not yet known in which trip

Jewett visited Monticello, the Virginia home of American president, Thomas Jefferson.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 -- Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel, 1886-1898. An earlier transcription appeared in Scott Frederick Stoddart's Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*, copyright by Stoddart, 1988. New transcription and notes.

Dame Ellen Terry to Annie Adams Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett

The Bellevue Hotel:
15. April
[*1896*]*

My dear Mrs Fields & Miss Jewett =

My first visit was to have been to you this morning, but I am laid up with a stupid violent cold & -- disaster! The Doctor says I must stay in bed until my dooty* forces me to the theater tonight -- I shall hope however to call tomorrow afternoon on my way home from Mrs Dexters* -- I can't thank you enough for your lovely thought of me in sending the exquisite roses.

[*Page 2*]

-- my rooms are full of flowers, & it makes me very happy to be well remembered. Looking forward to seeing you in the dear old house I am affectionately

Yours -- & yours dear Miss Jewett
Ellen Terry --

Notes

1896: There is no solid foundation for this date. *Ellen Terry in America; the Lyceum Tours,* a University of Arizona master's thesis by Bernice M Gough Mahmoud, includes a chronological list of Ellen Terry's performances in North America. It shows no performances by Terry in Boston on or near April 15 during any of the several American tours of the Lyceum Company. The nearest is in 1896, when the company was in Boston 20-25 April.

dooty: Presumably Terry mocks the American doctor's pronunciation of "duty."

Dexters: Josephine Anna Moore Dexter. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 209.

I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edward Henry Clement

20 April
[*1896*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mr. Clement

This poem of Mrs Fields' seems to have been written on purpose for these new days of the old Great Games,* so I have copied it from the volume of The Singing Shepherd* hoping that you will find a place to reprint it. It might have a

[*Page 2*]

word of 'heading'. I am so glad that the olive wreath* is still used ^at the games^ instead of a modern symbol of it.

With my kind regards
Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1896: This date, in another hand, appears on the manuscript of this letter. 1896 marked the first "modern" international Olympic summer games, and this date is confirmed by the reprinting of the poem Jewett offers Clement in this letter.

Great Games: The 1896 summer Olympic games were held in Athens, Greece on 6-18 April. A Jewett relative, Henry Jewett Furber, Jr. in 1901 became president of the International Olympic Games Association of 1904.

The Singing Shepherd: Mr. Clement, editor-in-chief of the Boston *Evening Transcript*, did in fact reprint "The Coronal" from Annie Adams Fields' *The Singing Shepherd* (1895) on 23 April 1896, p. 8. This head-note appeared with the poem: "The giving of the wild olive wreaths made from the trees of Olympia to our young American winners of the old Greek games recalls Mrs. Field's [*so written*] beautiful poem in her late volume of verse: 'The Singing Shepherd.'"

The poem includes these stanzas:

Behold the white-robed band,
Holding the mightiest tribute Greece can give, --
A little fading wreath!
The deed with Zeus shall live.

What needs he other gift,
The hero, with his living torch aflame,
Held high until the hour

The godhead gild his name!

No dusty sign for him,
No flaunting pile to quicken Fortune's wheel!
Only Demeter's leaf
And tears that downward steal.

olive wreath: According to *Wikipedia*, the first-place winners in 1896 events received a silver medal and an olive branch.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Abernethy Collection; Special Collections and Archives, Middlebury College Library, Middlebury, VT, Jewett, Sarah Orne Letters to Edward Henry Clement, 1896, Box 8, Folder 15.

Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
UNDER THE ELM.
EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.
[*End letterhead*]

[23 April *1896*]*

My dear Sarah,

Last summer I had presented to me a new Life of La Fayette by Dr. Charlemagne Tower* -- (I mean written by him){.} I read it lately. I found in it his connection with Paul Jones* -- and in a note were given his references. I have copied the note in full for you -- for if the books are within your reach I think you will like

[*Page 2*]

to look them up. Of course the Boston libraries can furnish them when you are there. Now all this may be bringing "coals to New-castle" -- but I thought it might so chance this information might be of service to you -- so ventured.

With love to you all --

Yours affec'ly
Mary E. Bell

Thursday morning
April the twenty-third.

Notes

1896: This is the only year between 1894 and 1901 in which 23 April fell on a Thursday.

Tower: Charlemagne Tower, *The Marquis de La Fayette in the American Revolution* (1894).

Paul Jones: John Paul Jones (1747-1792), naval hero of the American Revolution, is a main character in Jewett's final novel, *The Tory Lover* (1901).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Bell, Mary E., 1826-1904. 1 letter; [n.d.], bMS Am 1743 (20). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Hannah Parker Kimball to Sarah Orne Jewett

April 30 --
[*1896*]*

My dear Miss Jewett,

I am almost sure that you will not remember me although I met you once, long ago.

But I have from time to time gleaned so much pleasure from your delightful stories; & have, lately, felt so

[*Page 2*]

much enjoyment in the possession of Mrs Field's Singing Shepherd,* given me by a friend, that I have asked Messrs Copeland & Day, who are getting out a little book for me, to send you an early copy.

You must not bother to acknowledge the same, for I doubt not

[*Page 3*]

you are over whelmed with such attentions;* & I shall be wholly re-paid if you will accept the little volume, & if you & Mrs Fields will look at it, -- some time.

Believe me, with [sincerest *?*] admiration for your work,

Very cordially yours
Hannah Parker Kimball.

Notes

1896: American poet, Hannah Parker Kimball (1861-1921), published two books with Copeland and Day during Jewett's lifetime: *Soul & Sense* (1896) and *Victory and Other Verses* (1897). It seems likely, though not certain, that Kimball wrote to Jewett about the first of these. Kimball has corrected 20 to 30 in her date.

Singing Shepherd: Annie Adams Fields published her poetry collection, *The Singing Shepherd*, in 1895. Key to Correspondents.

attentions: Kimball appears to have added an "s" to this word. Also, she has clearly separated "over" and "whelmed" in this sentence, and also "some" and "time" in the next.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 123

I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Rose Lamb

Monday [*May*] 11th, 1896,* South Berwick, Maine.

My dear Rose, -- I was in town again for a few days, last week; I mean week before last, and I thought of you and of Mrs. R -- ,* but I was more taken up with affairs than usual so that I could not manage to get to see you. Now I am so busy with some writing here that I cannot say when I shall get to town again. But tell Mrs. R -- that the only way is to keep at work! If I were she I should read half a dozen really good and typical stories over and over! Maupassant's "Ficelle" for pathos and tragic directness, for one, and some of Miss Thackeray's fairy stories, "Cinderella," for instance, which I have always admired very much, old-fashioned romance put into modern terms, and Miss Wilkins's story about getting the squashes in one frosty night, and the cats being lost! I can't remember its name though the story is so clear and exquisite to my mind, and Daudet's "La Chevre de M. Sequin [*Seguin*]" and "La Mule du Pape."* These are all typical and well proportioned in themselves and well-managed, and I speak of them because they come readily to my mind, and give one clear ideas of a beautiful way of doing things. One must have one's own method: it is the personal contribution that makes true value in any form of art or work of any sort.

I could write much about these things, but I do not much believe that it is worth while to say anything, but *keep at work!* If something comes into a writer's or a painter's mind the only thing is to *try it*, to see what one can do with it, and give it a chance to show if it has real value. Story-writing is always experimental, just as a water-color sketch is, and that *something which does itself* is the vitality of it. I think we must know what good work is, before we can do good work of our own, and so I say, study work that the best judges have called good and see *why* it is good; whether it is in that particular story, the reticence or the bravery of speech, the power of suggestion that is in it, or the absolute clearness and finality of revelation; whether it sets you thinking, or whether it makes you see a landscape with a live human figure living its life in the foreground.

Forgive this hasty note, which perhaps you will read to Mrs. R -- I could not say more just now if we were talking together.

Yours affectionately.
[*Not signed*]

Notes

1896: Assuming that Fields has the correct year for this letter, then the only Monday to fall on the 11th was in May.

Mrs. R: This is likely to be a relative of the wife of Rose Lamb's brother, Horatio/Horace, who married Annie Lawrence Rotch. See Rose Lamb in Key to Correspondents.

Maupassant's … "La Mule du Pape": Guy de Maupassant's (1850-1893) collection of stories, *Yvette. La Ficelle. Le Papa De Simon. Deux Amis. La Parure,* first appeared posthumously in 1907 in French. However "La Ficelle" had been published in France in 1884.

Anne Thackeray, Lady Ritchie's "Cinderella" appeared in *Five Old Friends and a Young Prince* (1868).

Mary Reichardt identifies the Mary Wilkins Freeman story as "An Object of Love." She says "It was commissioned by *Harper's Bazar* for the Valentine's Day 1885 issue, and was later collected in *a Humble Romance and Other Stories* (Harper and Brothers, 1887), Freeman's first short story collection." For an analysis of the story see Reichardt, *Mary Wilkins Freeman: A Study of the Short Fiction* (1997). Reichardt points out that there is only one lost cat in the story.

Jewett probably read Daudet's stories in French. She could have found "La Chevre de M. Seguin" in Baptiste Méras's collection *Cinq Histoires* published in the United States in 1899. "La Mule du Pape" appeared in the United States in *Le Siége De Berlin, et D'autres Contes* (1887) and again in *Trois Contes Choisis* (1891).

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Louise Imogen Guiney to Annie Adams Fields

[*11 May 1896*]*

Dear Mrs. Fields:

Was it you who sent me the telephone message about the memorial to Lord Tennyson?* It reached me by a small boy sent to the house, where I had been lying, pretty well tired, and on a short furlough from the Post-Office, all morning. It was signed "Miss Field," and I did not know ~~whence~~ ^from which place^ it came. And so it puzzled me a bit. But I told the boy to say 'Yes' for me, if you and Boston were at the end of the wire. If I guess right, I must go farther, and thank you for the honor you do me in asking me. I am always yours, to do what you like with. Cela m'éblouit,* as I heard the best Ruy

[*Page 2*]

Blas* say so romantically the other night.

I hope Miss Jewett is at your side yet, and well, and looking out over what is to be the Embankment.* My love to you both.

Louise I. Guiney

11th May: Auburndale, Mass.

Notes

1896: Though this letter is undated, clearly Guiney and Fields are corresponding about a memorial fund for the Tennyson Monument on Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight, which was erected in the summer of 1897. This letter could have been composed in almost any year from 1893 to 1896; I have chosen the latest likely year.

garden: Guiney and Fields are communicating about a memorial to the British poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892). Guiney names several of his poems that she particularly admires.

Cela m'éblouit: French, "It dazzles me."

Ruy Blas: *Ruy Blas* (1838) is a tragedy by French author, Victor Hugo (1802-1885).

Embankment: The Charles River Esplanade was completed in 1910, but planning and civic discussion of the project began as early as 1894.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection Box 25: mss FI 1566.

Louise Imogen Guiney to Annie Adams Fields

[*late May 1896*]*

Dear Mrs. Fields:

This is my match to ^help^ light the big beacon on the island downs, which I will thank you heartily to add to the fund. I can't help wishing there were two ciphers to the right of the numeral! which, as it is, cannot express even approximately what I should like to do for the man who made In Memoriam, The Two Voices, and The Revenge, and the little lyric about the Swaintson garden,* which inhabits me from a child.

[*Page 2*]

This is a post-officing week, and I must "go back to my gallipots."* Love to you, and cheer for a pessimistic June, from

Yours devotedly,
L. G. Guiney.

Thursday evening.

Notes

late May 1896: Though this letter is undated, it almost certainly was composed in late May, after Guiney to Fields of 11 May 1896. The year is less certain, the memorial fund to which Guiney contributes almost certainly was active during this year. It is possible, however, that this letter could have been composed in almost any year from 1893 to 1896.

garden: Guiney and Fields are communicating about a memorial to the British poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892). Guiney names several of his poems that she particularly admires.

This letter indicates that Fields is collecting contributions for the Tennyson Monument on Tennyson Down on the Isle of Wight. This monument was erected in the summer of 1897.

gallipots: It is not clear why Guiney has placed this passage in quotation marks. A gallipot, traditionally, is a small earthenware jar used by apothecaries.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection Box 25: mss FI 1550.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

Wednesday
[*May/June 1896*]*

Dear fellow

Your note gave me a great joy. I didn't know that you were to be here so soon -- quite so soon and you seem to have just 'lighted like a bird out of the sky. Which makes me pull hard at my lilac knot and wonder how long the knot is going to hold . . As for

[*Page 2*]

the Hat: it is a very strange occurrence because only laziness (and [busyness *?*]) has kept me from sending a note and a money order to hurry up a Hat the elements being severe upon the last production of Lebel Stritter* -- and a general feeling of being left roofless in the wind, had begun to settle down. These things ought to be communicated to the

[*Page 3*]

Society for Psychical Research -- *

Oh dear how I long to see you! I can write no more foolishness but send love and love always -- I have been reading Le Tresor* with curious interest and delight -- there is such a touch of inheritance now & then of the great line of Fénelon* The last

[*Page 4*]

place I should have looked for him would have been in a book of the line of Maeterlink. We must speak of these things.

I wish you was right here: there is lilacs in [bloom *corrected*] and dandelions, and the fields are green and there is some unusual glass in the Stone Abbey on the hill.* Art and nature now go hand in hand in Berwick.

S.O.J.

Notes

May 1896: See Whitman to Jewett of 3 April 1896. That lilacs are blooming in South Berwick indicates that month probably is May or possibly June.

Lebel Stritter: Hiekel & Lebel Stritter was a Paris hat-maker.

Society for Psychical Research: The American Society for Psychical Research was founded in 1884 to direct scientific research into what appeared to be supernatural phenomena. Wikipedia.

Le Tresor: Belgian author Maurice Maeterlinck (1862-1949). Jewett refers to his essay collection: *Le Trésor des Humbles* (*The Treasure of the Humble*) (1896). Wikipedia describes the essays as "deeply reflective and mystical."

Fénelon: French clergyman and author, François Fénelon (1651-1715). Wikipedia.

Stone Abbey on the hill: Probably Jewett refers the comparatively new Fogg Memorial Building at the Berwick Academy, completed in 1894, for which Whitman designed the windows. But she may refer to Stonehurst Manor in Intervale, NH, the home of Helen Bigelow Merriman. Whitman also designed stained glass for the manor. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 277.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Samuel Sidney McClure

South Berwick Maine
3 June [*1896*]

Dear Mr. McClure

I will send you one or two short sketches for your youths department between now and August -- My serial in St. Nicholas* has given me a new interest in such work, but I do not wish to undertake a long piece of writing -- How <u>your</u> work

[*Page 2*]

has grown! I like to think that I had to do with its beginning* --

Yours very truly
Sarah O. Jewett.

I have not forgotten the sketch for older people* which I promised you last year. Indeed I was thinking it over today.

Notes

1896: As the notes below indicate, this letter is likely to have been composed soon after Jewett's "Betty Leicester's English Christmas" appeared in *St. Nicholas*.

serial for St. Nicholas: Jewett published two serials in *St. Nicholas*, "A Bit of Color" (1889), which was incorporated into *Betty Leicester* (1890) and "Betty Leicester's English Christmas" in 1895-6. This letter seems to suggest that Jewett plans to submit stories for *McClure's Magazine*, which began publication in 1893.

beginning: Jewett contributed to the first issue of *McClure's Magazine* in June 1893, introducing "Human Documents: Portraits of Distinguished People."

sketch for older people: Jewett is not known to have published any fiction for younger readers in *McClure's Magazine*. Her first story to appear there was "Bold Words at the Bridge" in April 1899.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Lucy Elliot Keeler to Sarah Orne Jewett

The Bellevue, Boston, June 7th.
[*1896*]*

My dear Miss Jewett:

Pray do not think me absurd when I tell you that in a mild and inoffensive way I am a collector of choice autographs. There is one sentence of yours in "Betty Leicester" which long ago was tucked into a get-at-able place in my brain, and which more than anything else has kept me these years from falling into the shy and silent ways so easy to deaf people. I may not get the exact

[*Page 2*]

words, but they are almost these: "Whenever two persons are brought together one is always host and one always guest; and they must be careful of their relations to each other." And so if you will write it out -- with my name above and your own charming one below -- I shall number it among my greatest treasures, and dying bequeath it to my children! There are three of them, and the eldest has just confided to me that 'the dearest girl in the world' has promised to marry him!

I shall be at West Brattleboro, Vermont, for a few weeks, and my permanent address is Fremont, Ohio.

I can't begin to tell you how much pleasure I had in meeting you the other day, and in finding that your [precepts *?*] are taken from your own practices! and I beg you to believe me

most sincerely yours

Lucy Elliot Keeler.

Notes

1896: See Keeler to Jewett of 23 June 1896.

The quotation Keeler remembers appears near the end of Chapter 1.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 122 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Tuesday --

[*Mid-June 1896*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.

Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

Dearest Annie

I have just been putting some silk night gown cases into an envelope for Susan & Miss Appleton -- and now I feel as if I had seen them off. How pleasant it sounds about the teachers and your Sunday with dear little Miss Frances!*

This is the right kind of a day for Mrs. Dexter*

[*Page 2*]

to come down, but there is no word of her yet! I wish she were coming somehow. I dont get on with my work very well, and it worries me. Yesterday I felt as if I had toiled all day & came at nothing like the fishermen,* but it has been very trying weather until today which is beautiful. I wish I

[*Page 3*]

could see my dear Fuff -- -- but I almost hope that Agnes Irwin* wont come until next week. The time flies so fast here as you know with people coming and going and many things to think of. I do hope to keep at my desk but the fault is mainly in me, I suppose, when I cant. A nice busy little person is at work in Manchester*

[*Page 4*]

and that's a comfort. . .

I have just had such a nice present of Auccassin & Nicolette in one of Copeland & Days little blue & white books from the Author -- Mr E. W. Thomson.* Have you seen him ever? I cant remember -- but I must send a note to him. With dearest love Pinny.

Notes

Mid-June 1896: This tentative date is supported by Jewett's receiving a gift copy of a book published in that year. The letter probably was written during the warmer months, when Fields stayed at her summer house in Manchester-by-the-Sea. See notes below.

If this date is correct, then Jewett probably was having difficulty completing her work on *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, which appeared in book form late in 1896.

Susan & Miss Appleton: In other letters of 1896, Jewett frequently mentions together Susan Travers and Mary (Minnie) Worthen Appleton (1886-1965), both of whom Jewett met in Newport, RI.

little Miss Frances: This person has not been identified. Possibilities include Frances (Fanny) Morse and Frances Willard.

Mrs. Dexter: Josephine Anna Moore (1846-1937), who was the second wife of Chicago lawyer Wirt Dexter (1832-1890).

the fishermen: Probably Jewett alludes to the Bible, Luke 5, in which Jesus encourages Simon to try fishing again after his crew caught no fish during a night of toil.

Agnes Irwin: Key to Correspondents.

Manchester: Jewett refers to Annie Fields, whose summer home was in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA. Fields published *Authors and Friends* in 1896 and *Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe* in 1897.

Mr E. W. Thomson: Canadian author, Edward William Thomson (1849-1924) produced a rhymed version of the M. S. Henry translation of *This is of Auccassin and Nicolette: A Song-tale of True Lovers* in 1896.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields papers: mss FL 5554. This manuscript has been damaged by water, making parts of the transcription less than normally certain.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Sunday
[*14 June 1896*]*

Dear Mary

Only think of Mrs. Claflin's being dead! We were so surprised -- it seemed as if it must be Mr. Claflin. Mrs. Fields saw her just before she came down here. I suppose the funeral will be Tuesday and so I shall not come home tomorrow night as expected. I am pretty sure you will want to go to the funeral. I think we ought and if it is Tuesday I will meet you at the club. The last time I saw her was while Miss Kingsley* was in Boston: how one only remembers the kindness at such a time and forgets everything else. I have been wondering if Mrs. Ellis wont come & stay with her father. Arthur & his wife* have let their house up the shore here and were going to Europe & I wonder if they may not be gone.

The company here is getting on nicely. They are going in the morning. I wish you were here to see them Susan* is so engaging. Mrs. Whitman is coming to dinner tonight. I shouldn't have had very pleasant weather at Conway,* but every opportunity to go over the house. I wonder if you have been detained from church another Sunday! I shall see you so soon that I can tell things. I have been doing a little writing yesterday & today so my beak is up again. A poor sister sends much love & love from A.F. Mrs. Cabot* is really better but she still looks pretty sick. Good bye with love to all from

Sarah

Notes

14 June 1896: A handwritten note on this transcription reads:1894? However, the exact date is indicated by the reference to the death of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, which took place on Saturday, 13 June 1896. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Kingsley: The identity of Miss Kingsley is not yet known. Two possibilities are Mary Kingsley (1862-1900), the British writer and explorer and niece of Anglican priest and author, Charles Kingsley, and Mary St Leger Kingsley (1862-1931), the British novelist daughter of Charles Kingsley. Whether either of these women visited the United States and met Mrs. Claflin in the 1890s is not yet known. It is quite possible that another less illustrious Miss Kingsley is meant.

his wife: Mrs. Ellis is Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents. Her father was Massachusetts Governor William Claflin, and Arthur Bucklin Claflin was her half-brother.

Susan: This Susan may be Susan Travers, a regular visitor, or possibly Susan Marcia Oakes Woodbury or even Susan Hayes Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Conway: Conway, NH is a resort town in the White Mountains, where Jewett often vacationed.

Mrs. Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Folder 73, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday morning
[*17 June 1896*]*

Dearest Annie

I am late as usual for the mail, with a heap of things to answer, but this morning it isn't so much from sleeping late as it is from strolling out of doors after breakfast . . . The garden is quite enchanting and I had to linger in the stable unduly because Dicky had been playing in [his *?*] stall and lamed a foot that was such a good foot on the road yesterday! While I was buying some stockings yesterday at Stearns's* Mary* stepped

[*Page 2*]

up along side which was most convenient and we went our ways together -- I got a "trinket" for Laura Richards* and then went to the Club and had our luncheons and Mary [Branell / Russell *?*] came along and sat down with us most friendly and said I never asked her down to [Berwick *?*] so I promptly did! but she laughed and said the [week *?*] was [*unrecognized word*] "full{"} and she couldn't but she was coming sometime . . and after luncheon she went to rest, before going to the dentist [*mark that probably indicates a period*] [*two deleted words*] Lilian Aldrich came along -- happily they didn't

[*Page 3*]

meet -- at least [I did not see them -- *?*] I supposed Lilian was going to the funeral, and she said she had meant to, but wasn't and Mary and I both thought she looked quite badly and seemed sick and nervous. After the funeral I saw poor Lily Fairchild* who sat before us all the time and wore a look of real trouble and pain that went to my heart. Something in her whole figure showed it. And it was as plain to Mary as to me. There were a great many people there -- I should think from their church and from Newtonville -- and two or three ministers none

[*Page 4*]

of [*corrected word, perhaps* whom] said much except that dear old man who gave the benediction. Mary had been to see Mrs. Ellis* (having come up on the fast train) and said she was much grieved but it seems they had known that Mrs. Claflin* had Bright's [disease *?*].

There were many flowers, and the house was so full of her. Nothing spoke to me so much as a picture of Mr. Whittier* which I always [liked *?*] and for which she cared very much in a ^pretty^ frame close by and on the mantelpiece. I must write now to Mary Davenport* Your dear note has just come and

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

I will [gladly *?*] give the nice present to Mrs. Pray.* She has just gone but I shall be out by and by. I miss you so much darling Fuff when I waked up I thought I was still in Manchester{.}

Your Pin

Notes

17 June 1896: This date is confirmed by Jewett's account of the funeral of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, which took place on Tuesday 16 June 1896.

It seems clear that the events Jewett describes took place in Boston and then in Newton, MA on 16 June. Probably at this time, Fields was in Manchester by the Sea.

Dicky: A family horse mentioned in other letters tentatively dated in August 1887 and 1903 or later.

Stearns's: R. H. Stearns and Company was a large Boston retail store noted for its women's clothing, from the 1860s until about 1920.

Laura Richards: Laura Elizabeth Howe Richards. Key to Correspondents.

the Club: It is not yet known at which Boston club the Jewett sisters would have eaten their lunch.

Mary [Branell / Russell ?]: This transcription is very uncertain, and the person has not yet been identified.

Lily Fairchild: See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Davenport: Possibly the daughter of Emma Ellis and step-granddaughter of Mrs. Claflin, Mary Agnes Ellis In the absence of any other known "Mary Davenport" connected with the Claflin and Ellis families, it seems possible that Jewett refers to Mrs. Ellis's daughter by this name, to distinguish her from her step-grandmother.

Mrs. Pray: The Pray family were Jewett employees. See Silverthorne, *Sarah Orne Jewett: A Writer's Life*, p. 102.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields papers: mss FL 5569. This manuscript has been damaged by water, making parts of the transcription less than normally certain.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

June 18th 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.
Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear T.B.

I think the poem of Santo Domingo* is most lovely. You can hardly think how it brings back that harbor and the red tower and all our days in that far port, but most of all the day comes back when you said to me those two beautiful lines at the end. They seem more beautiful than ever -- I shall get it all by heart, for this

[*Page 2*]

poem speaks to me as few poems ever can. It is just as beautiful as I knew it was going to be! and I think you so much, my dear friend, for giving A.F. and me the pleasure of this early reading. I shall be watching the Century; in the meantime I am sending it right off to Mrs. Fields (A.F. or T.L. I ought to have said with proper ceremony.)

I think so often of you and

[*Page 3*]

Lilian. This is a sad June for you both and I wish that I were near enough to give the least help. I did so hope that you would come to Berwick just now with Lilian & Mr. Pierce but I know from Lilian how impossible it seems to even think of such a thing. But if things are better with your two invalids you must let me know. From sad experience I know what a strain it is and sometimes a little change is a great

[*Page 4*]

help and freshener to ones powers. Do count upon me as more than ready to give a helping hand in any way that I possibly can. -- and always

Yours affectionately
Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Santo Domingo poem: Aldrich's "Santo Domingo" recounts his first sighting of the capital of the Dominican Republic after "long days of angry sea and sky." As Jewett indicates, she is well aware of the occasion of this poem, the storm-tossed cruise of the Caribbean the previous winter.

Aldrich's poem appeared in *The Century Magazine* v. 53 (November 1896), p. 32.

AFTER long days of angry sea and sky,
The magic isle rose up from out the blue
Like a mirage, vague, dimly seen at first,
At first seen dimly through the mist; and then --
Groves of acacia; slender leaning stems
Of palm-trees weighted with their starry fronds;
Airs that, at dawn, had from their slumber risen
In bowers of spices; between shelving banks,
A river through whose limpid crystal gleamed,
Four fathoms down, the silvery, rippled sand;
Upon the bluff a square red tower, and roofs
Of cocoa fibre lost among the boughs;
Hard by, a fort with crumbled parapet.
These took the fancy captive ere we reached
The longed-for shores; then swiftly in our thought
We left behind us the New World, and trod
The Old, and in a sudden vision saw
Columbus wandering from court to court,
A mendicant, with kingdoms in his hands.

two invalids: Probably these are the mothers of Aldrich and Lilian. Aldrich's mother died at the end of June. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Alice Morse Earle to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*20 June 1896*]

[*Letterhead*]

LONG ISLAND SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

REGENT,
Mrs. HENRY EARLE
242 HENRY STREET, BROOKLYN.*

VICE REGENT,
Mrs. JAMES F. PIERCE
7 MONTAGUE TERRACE, BROOKLYN.

[*Left, seal of the Daughters of the Revolution*]

RECORDING SECRETARY,
Mrs. PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO,
58 PIERREPOINT STREET,
BROOKLYN.

TREASURER
Mrs. JOHN VAN B. THAYER,
46 SO. OXFORD STREET,
BROOKLYN.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
Mrs. ERNEST W. BIRDSALL,
150 HENRY STREET.

REGISTRAR,
Mrs. ALBERT VAN WYCK,
98 REMSEN STREET,
BROOKLYN.

BROOKLYN, L.I., June 20th
189 6
[*Underlined portions of the date filled in ink*]

[*End of letterhead*]

My dear Miss Jewett --*

I am informed ---- not however on your authority that a celebrated adventuress -- of whom I tell in my "Colonial Dames and Goodwives" viz: Eliza Wilson, who masqueraded under the name of Princess Caroline Matilda, Duchess of Brownstonburges &c &c -- died in Berwick Maine about 1775.* I write to you asking you the name of some person in that town -- of antiquarian tastes, to whom I

[2 *penciled and circled in another hand in left bottom margin*]

[*Page 2*]

could write and learn of the end of her days . -- or in fact any other information about her.

I had hoped ere this to meet you -- for I am told you are one of the fair "littery fellers"* (as Senator Cameron said of Lowell) who are satisfying as ^an^ acquaintance. The few whom I have met -- of "the art and mystery" of book-craft -- were most distinctly disappointing. Miss Wilkins was interesting -- [fair *?*] however -- from being as I thought she would be --

I am very cordially yours
Alice Morse Earle
June 20th. 1896*

Notes

Brooklyn: This street address is underlined by hand.

Jewett: Inserted in pencil between the greeting and the first paragraph, in another hand:
"Sarah
Mary J ?"

Eliza Wilson: *Colonial Dames and Goodwives* (1895) tells the story of Sarah Wilson (b. 1754), though Earle seems clearly to have named her "Eliza" in this letter (pp. 166-72). A convicted and transported thief, Wilson escaped her seven years servitude in 1771 in Maryland and assumed the identity of Princess Susannah Caroline Matilda, Marchioness de Waldegrave, sister to Britain's Queen Charlotte, the victim of her theft. Earle believes she may have appeared in Massachusetts in 1775 under the name Caroline Augusta Harriet, Duchess of Brownstonburges.

An on-line account of Sarah Wilson says that after being exposed and returned to servitude, she escaped a second time, married a British officer and eventually lived out a respectable life in the area of the Bowery, New York.

"littery fellers": The *New Castle Herald* of New Castle, Pennsylvania (Friday, August 27, 1920 p. 20), published a widely reprinted column on the administration of U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893). Here it was reported that in 1877, "To the disgust of 'practical politicians' he [Hayes] 'threw away' a high-class foreign mission on a man like James Russell Lowell, "a dashed literary feller," as Senator Cameron said." In 1877, this almost certainly would have been Senator Simon Cameron (1799-1889) of Pennsylvania.

Miss Wilkins: Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman. Key to Correspondents.

yesterday: Earle's *Sun Dials and Roses of Yesterday* (1902).

1896: [In pencil in another hand, bottom margin: "Taken from Sun dials and roses of yesterday.
Alice Morse Earle"

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930, MS Am 1743, (55) Earle, Alice Morse. 2 letters; [1893] - 1896.

Notes for Celia Thaxter, *Among the Isles of the Shoals*, 1896

Sarah Orne Jewett

Introduction

Almost certainly, Jewett composed these notes for Houghton, Mifflin & Co. when she was aiding in the preparation of volumes of collected works of Celia Thaxter in the spring of 1896. This document precedes Jewett's letter to the publisher of 20 June 1896, in which she says she no longer believes that "The Last Days of William Hunt" should be included in a new edition of *Among the Isles of the Shoals*.

Text

These two papers should be kept with care. The beginning of the Story Hjelma* is full of promise and beauty = it has a greater breadth than any thing Mrs Thaxter ever did in certain ways -- though it calls for unusual powers as a story writer to carry it on as it begins. It is autobiographical ^to a certain extent^ like most of her prose work --

Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Page 2*]

I should use this Hunt paper certainly, & perhaps the two others* in making up the prose volume or volumes

Notes

Story Hjelma: This unfinished Thaxter manuscript has not yet been identified. Thaxter's poem, "Hjelma," was first published in *The Independent* (1875) and collected in the 1896 *Poems of Celia Thaxter* pp. 245-7, prepared by Jewett. The poem tells a story that appears as part of "Sea Sorrow," a narrative that Jewett recommended, in her 20 June 1896 letter, for inclusion in the 1896 edition of *Among the Isles of the Shoals*. The manuscript of "Sea Sorrow" is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University.

two others: In Jewett's 20 June 1896 letter she mentions "A Memorable Murder" in addition to "Sea Sorrow" and another unnamed piece she has considered for inclusion in *Among the Isles of the Shoals*. If the unnamed piece made it into the Houghton Library collection, it almost certainly was the unpublished manuscript, "A Day by the Mediterranean." Finally, no new Thaxter text was added in the 1896 volume.

The manuscript of this note is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 Series B: Folder B8: Thaxter, comments. Undated. 2 p. Comments by SOJ about two papers by Celia Thaxter.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

20 June 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.
Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I return the copy of Among the Isles of the Shoals* with very few slight corrections. I have decided that these papers and the one I [left *corrected*] with you in manuscript called Sea Sorrow had better be printed by themselves leaving out ^entirely^ The Last Days of William Hunt, and also the Memorable Murder* which

[*Page 2*]

(as I have happily remembered in good season!) [was *written over* is] reprinted in a volume of short stories for summer reading* by Messrs. Scribner & Co. some years since. I am sure that Mrs. Thaxter spoke to me of [this *or* that *?*] arrangement and of some payment being made her.

It does not seem to me that this volume will need any preface or introduction other than the brief one already given by the author. I shall give you a footnote to end the first page of Sea-

[*Page 3*]

Sorrow, merely to say the Mrs. Thaxter left it among her papers and that it seems to ~~end~~ belong to the Shoals book &c.

I shall hope to receive the proof of the book of Poems soon, with the Preface.* I mean to attend to them and return them at once. Please remember that I should like to see the proof of Sea Sorrow as it goes to the Press in manuscript. Among the Isles of the Shoals need not be sent to me.

Believe me

[*Page 4*]

with very kind regards

Yours sincerely
S. O. Jewett

I have, since writing the above note received the Preface & the volume of Poems which I shall return today{.}

[*Page 5*]

Foot=note at the beginning of Mrs. Thaxter's paper called Sea Sorrow: (To follow among the Isles of the Shoals

---

These two sketches were found among Mrs. Thaxter's papers after her death. They seem to the editor to make a most interesting additional chapter to Among the Isles of the Shoals, giving a picture of her ~~later~~ ^own^ life on Appledore in winter weather.

Notes

Among the Isles of the Shoals: Celia Thaxter's 1873 selection of sketches and essays. Key to Correspondents.

In her 1873 preface, Thaxter is very modest about her book, characterizing her sketches as "fragmentary and inadequate," and the collection as "imperfect" and "better than nothing."

Sea Sorrow ... The Last Days of William Hunt ... Memorable Murder: Jewett seems to intend for "Sea Sorrow" and at least one other unnamed piece to be included at the end of a new edition of *Among the Isles of the Shoals*, but Houghton Mifflin apparently decided against this, as there is no edition that includes these texts or Jewett's "footnote."

Further, Thaxter's "Sea Sorrow" apparently has never been published, though at this time both Jewett and the publisher seriously considered using it.

Likewise, Thaxter's piece on the death of American artist William Morris Hunt (1824-1879) remains unpublished, though presumably it is based upon her letter to the New York *Tribune* of 18 September 1879, collected in *Uncollected Works* (2020). Thaxter discovered his body, after his apparent suicide, while he sought relief from depression in the Isles of the Shoals.

"A Memorable Murder" by Thaxter appears in *Stories by American Authors 3* (1884-5), published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Harvard's Houghton Library collection of Houghton Mifflin Correspondence and Records includes two of these manuscripts: "The Last Days of William Morris Hunt" [MS Am 1925.4 (21)] and "Sea-sorrow," [MS Am 1925.4, (22)]. This collection also contains a third manuscript entitled, "A Day by the Mediterranean." Whether this is the unnamed manuscript of this letter is not yet known.

Preface: Jewett wrote prefaces for two of Thaxter's posthumous collections: *Stories and Poems for Children* (1895) and *Poems of Celia Thaxter* (1896).

A diagonal line down from right to left has been drawn though this sentence and the next.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Robert Underwood Johnson to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin Letterhead*]
THE CENTURY
7 WEST FORTY-THIRD ST.
[*End letterhead*]

June 22
1896

Dear Mrs. Fields:

I do not know whether you are aware that Harvard is to give Mr. Muir* the honorary degree concerning which we had correspondence a year ago. He is here and I am going up with him tomorrow to Prof. Sargent's* at Brookline and to commencement on Wednesday. Thursday I must go to York Harbor to look

[*Page 2*]

up a summer place and if you care to have me drop Mr. Muir at Manchester for the day perhaps it can be arranged. ^I can pick him up on my return.^

Shall you not be at Commencement?

As I write Tesla* is here, I having invited him to meet Muir{.} They are chatting on the balcony.

My little wife has written you in response to your lovely invitation for which I thank

[*Page 3*]

you heartily. She spent Sunday with Agnes at Mrs. [Pond's *?*]* on the Sound while I took Muir up the Hudson to see Prof. Osborn and Mr. Burroughs.* She has not been well there and it is just possible that I may not be able to go tomorrow. But I hope to see you on Wednesday.

With my love to Miss de Jouette,* I am always my dear Mrs Fields

Faithfully yours
R. U. Johnson

Here is a round robin* for you!

Notes

Muir: Robert Underwood Johnson was a friend of Scottish-born American naturalist and author, John Muir (1838-1914), encouraging him to write for *Century Magazine*.

Prof. Sargent's: Probably this was Charles Sprague Sargent (1841-1927), an American botanist who, according to Wikipedia, was the first director of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum.

Tesla: Serbian-American engineer and inventor, Nikola Tesla (1856-1943). Wikipedia.

Pond's: This transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

Prof. Osborn and Mr. Burroughs: Probably Johnson referred to Henry Fairfield Osborn, Sr. (1857-1935), American paleontologist and geologist, and to John Burroughs (1837-1921), an American author and naturalist. Wikipedia.

Jouette: Sarah Orne Jewett.

round robin: This usually referred to a letter that is circulated with additions as it moves within a small circle of people.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 309, III. Letters to Annie Adams Fields.

Lucy Elliot Keeler to Sarah Orne Jewett

West Brattleboro, Vt., June 23, '96.

My dear Miss Jewett:

I woke this morning with a great pity for unfortunate Persons who may not claim you for a friend, and who do not possess choice autographs from "Betty Leicester"* and still choicer words written for one's very self.

I came home last evening after a little driving trip back through the mountains -- hot and dusty and off the perpendicular

[*Page 2*]

from roads that went down so \ to find these dear words from you; and I am sure my touch of color in your gray day could not have been half so refreshing as your silvery bit after my red ones! I thank you with all my heart.

I wish I might show you this beautiful spot which my ancestors had the good taste to select from the whole new world centuries ago. The fragrance of my great-grandmother's syringa blossoms comes to me as I write, and her grandparents lie buried in the meadow behind the house. Old men and women here call me by my [Mother's *corrected*] name and traditions fill every corner.

I shall not be likely to forget your rash invitation to look you up some other year, for if you will pardon me I think you are charming: and I beg you to believe me

Ever most sincerely thine
Lucy Elliot Keeler

Notes

"Betty Leicester": Jewett's 1890 novel, *Betty Leicester: A Story for Girls*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 122 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

June 26, 1896.

Last night having 16,000 letters and jobs to do, I turned aside and just, first, read the last chapters from that most real country where someone is living with the Pointed Firs.* Just altogether beautiful I call it, dear, and wish to tell you so, because there is gratitude, and then the *heart's* gratitude, that strange deep joy of the soul at touch or sight of a new sympathy with the soul's life; I love to have you write and write in these levels; where star and pebble make part of the divine chord. . . . I am working as hard as I can, with no intention of ever stopping, if I can help it, this side heaven.

Notes

Pointed Firs: Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick
29 June 1896

Dear Friend your letter gives me the comfort of knowing that weakness and age are at an end forever for your dear mother and that her kind and gentle life is done as far as this world goes. Whatever change has come must be for the better since she herself put no hindrance in the way. All this I felt so little while ago when the same loss touched me

[*Page 2*]

that my heart is full of instant comprehension. I know how different this loss is from any other -- as long as ones mother lives the sense of being lovingly protected never fails, and one is always a child -- there is a strange sense of being alone in the world for the first time.

When a larger life opens for those who are nearest and dearest

[*Page 3*]

it seems as if a larger life opened for us too. I sometimes remember what Sir Thomas Browne said -- about joining both lives together and living one but for the other -- "For seeing there is something of us that must still live on:" he begins* -- I have not seen the page for a long time, but in such days the words come back. It makes a great change in ones life, but it is a change for the better. I have

[*Page 4*]

never felt so near to my mother or kept such a sense of her love for me and mine for her as I have since she died. There are no bars of shyness or difference or inexpressiveness or carelessness, it seems as if I had never known my mother before.

But it is no use to try to write these things, if I were with you I should just take hold of your hand and not say anything and so I do that now.

With love to you and Lilian

Yours ever sincerely
S. O. J.

Notes

same loss: Aldrich's mother, Sarah, died on about 26 June 1896. Jewett's mother died in October 1891.

Browne: Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682). Jewett uses this quotation in at least two other writings: "The Foreigner" and in her father's obituary. In the final paragraph of Browne's "Letter to a Friend," (1690), he says:

> Time past is gone like a shadow; make Times to come, present; conceive that near which may be far off; approximate thy last Times by present Apprehensions of them: live like a Neighbour unto Death, and think there is but little to come. And since there is something in us that must still live on, joyn both Lives together; unite them in thy Thoughts and Actions, and live in one but for the other. He who thus ordereth the Purposes of this Life, will never be far from the next; and is in some manner already in it, by an happy Conformity, and close Apprehension of it.

"Letter to a Friend" was largely reproduced in *Christian Morals* (1716), where the passage occurs in the last paragraph, this time somewhat closer to Jewett's wording:

> Time past is gone like a Shadow; make time to come present. Approximate thy latter times by present apprehensions of them: be like a neighbour unto the Grave, and think there is but little to come. And since there is something of us that will still live on, Join both lives together, and live in one but for the other. He who thus ordereth the purposes of this Life will never be far from the next, and is in some manner already in it, by a happy conformity, and close apprehension of it. And if, as we have elsewhere declared, any have been so happy as personally to understand Christian Annihilation, Extasy, Exolution, Transformation, the Kiss of the Spouse, and Ingression into the Divine Shadow, according to Mystical Theology, they have already had an handsome Anticipation of Heaven; the World is in a manner over, and the Earth in Ashes unto them.

(Research by James Eason, University of Chicago.)

Lilian: Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields P. L.

Tuesday --
[*30 June 1896*]*
[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

My dearest Annie

So it happened that I saw Mr. Johnson* & you didnt! He came up from York in the afternoon train and left at seven o'clock and was very pleasant and nice -- delighted with the School house where I left word that he should follow me -- and Dr Cogswell* of Cambridge was here to tea & they had interests in common -- [the *corrected*] Commencement at Harvard for one thing. Mr. Johnson

[*Page 2*]

said that there was more applause when the Linnet got his degree than for anyone else and that he was quite moved by it and blushed a good deal -- which ^it^ pleased my heart to hear. I go to write the Linnet as soon as I finish this.

Mr. Johnson seemed even more undervitalized than last time I saw him, and a little serious and solemn. He is going to have a vacation of two months having had a year of the Century alone -- but Mr. Gilder* returns [*blurred words*]

[*Page 3*]

He says that Thérèse has written a paper on French Children* by his request. I have found out about the other Stowe paper (this is a secret!) Mr. R. Burton wrote it and R.U.J. thinks it very poor -- He was simply destroyed when I told him about yours, but he might have known. --

Theodore* did his part excellently yesterday -- I was really astonished to find how well he could speak with dignity and clearness. He made the most of his "oration" which 'people' liked & praised very much {.} We were all three proud of our boy,

[*Page 4*]

but now I want to give him some change for he looks very delicate. He was President of his class and has had to work very hard in all the preparation -- Next week he will rest, and we shall have some drives & quiet which is best for him ^just now^ and a week from Monday he & his mother and I are going to [gad *?*] -- As soon as I hear about Miss Irwin* I shall [run *?*] to you for a few days first -- Good bye darling -- I have just had a long letter from H. M. & Co. about Sandpiper's book,* & must see what to say.

With best love always

Notes

30 June 1896: See Jewett to T. B. Aldrich of 30 June 1896.

Mr. Johnson: Robert Underwood Johnson. Key to Correspondents.

Dr Cogswell: While this is not certain, it seems likely that Jewett refers to Edward Russell Cogswell (1841-1914) a South Berwick born physician who became prominent as a board member of various institutions, including the Cambridge MA Public Library and the Board of Investment of the Cambridge Savings Bank.

It is possible, however, that Jewett may refer to Francis Cogwell (1827-1914), Superintendent of Schools in Cambridge, MA. See *A History of Cambridge, Massachusetts*, p. 181-2, and Find a Grave.

Linnet: On 24 June 1896, Thomas Bailey Aldrich received an honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard University. See *The Harvard Graduates' Magazine* (1897), pp. 54-8.
Mr. Gilder: Richard Watson Gilder. Key to Correspondents.

French Children: Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc's "About French Children" appeared in *Century* 52:6 (Oct 1896): 803-823.

Stowe paper ...Mr. R. Burton: "The Author of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'" by Richard Burton appeared in *Century Magazine* 52 (June 1896) pp. 698-704.

Fields's essay, "Days with Mrs. Stowe," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in August 1896, pp. 145-156.

Theodore: In 1896, Theodore Jewett Eastman entered Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA, in the fall of 1896, where graduated in 1897, soon after his mother's death.` In spring of 1896, he would have completed his final year at the Berwick Academy.

Miss Irwin: Agnes Irwin. Key to Correspondents.

Sandpiper's book: Jewett helped with and wrote the preface for the posthumous collection: *The Poems of Celia Thaxter* (1896).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields papers: mss FL 5555. This manuscript has been damaged by water, making parts of the transcription less than normally certain.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]
[*30 June 1896*]*

My dear Friend

I [am *corrected*] much pleased at hearing of your collegiate honors -- and especially (from some one who was present,) of the delightful and hearty applause. How I should have clapped my hands and pounded if I had been there!! Did the boys use to pound their feet on the floor in Portsmouth? Only a very

[*Page 2*]

great moment on the stage of the village hall ^~~here~~^ wins such expression here. Anything that does you and your lovely work honor wakes something very good and unspeakable in my heart. I should have seen the author of a poem called Elmwood and a story called a Bad Boy* and other poems and other stories, too many to count here -- stand up in the Sanders Theatre,* and

[*Page 3*]

I should have been so glad to think he [and *corrected*] I were friends ---

= I hope that there may be a little better news from your two old invalids* -- that these are days of less pain and discomfort. I think so often of you and Lilian waiting and watching there. I am glad you are out in the country and not in town. With love to you both.

Yours most affectionately
S. O. J.

Notes

30 June 1896: Jewett announces her intention to write this letter in her letter to Annie Fields probably of 30 June 1896.

Elmwood ... Bad Boy: Aldrich's *The Story of a Bad Boy* (1870) and his memorial poem to James Russell Lowell (d. 1891), "Elmwood."

Sanders Theater: Harvard University commencement exercises in 1896 took place in Sanders Theater. There on June 24, Thomas Bailey Aldrich received an honorary Master of Arts degree. See The Harvard Graduates' Magazine (1897), pp. 54-8. The person who "was present" and reported to Jewett was Robert Underwood Johnson; see Jewett to Fields of 30 June.

two old invalids: One of the invalids probably was Lilian Aldrich's mother. If the dates of the 30 June letters are correct, then Aldrich's mother had died the week before he received his degree.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117)

Annie Fields Transcription
This letter appears in Annie Fields, Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett (1911).

My dear Friend, -- I am much pleased at hearing of your collegiate honors, and especially (from some one who was present) of the delightful and hearty applause. How I should have clap

ped my hands and pounded if I had been there!! Did the boys use to pound their feet on the floor in Portsmouth? Only a very great moment on the stage of the village hall wins such expression here. Anything that does you and your lovely work honor wakes something very good and unspeakable in my heart. I should have seen the author of a poem called "Elmwood," and a story called "A Bad Boy," and other poems and other stories, too many to count here, stand up in the Sanders Theatre,* and I should have been so glad to think he and I were friends.

I hope that there may be a little better news from your two old invalids -- that these are days of less pain and discomfort. I think so often of you and Lilian waiting and watching there. I am glad you are out in the country and not in town. With love to you both.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

148 Charles St.
Boston. Thursday
[*June 1896*]*

My very dear Lilian:

"Sadie" goes to South Berwick today. She was greatly disappointed to find that you were away yesterday{.} We both wanted to go to you and she found she had the time; but today she has an engagement with her sister in Exeter.

[*Page 2*]

I am only here to pick up some threads dropped when I was tired in [office *?*] and fled to Manchester. We have had a delightful month there and I am rested and refreshed by it.

I particularly want to see you both! but I do not see the moment just now when I can go to you. We look forward to these days by the sea

[*Page 3*]

in July which you so kindly offer us.

Please thank Mr. Pierce* [for *written over something*] his hospitable invitation. I am going to Watch Hill next week to see my sister Elizabeth* who has lately returned from a year's absence and the following week I go to join Sarah at South Berwick.

Lovingly and
gratefully
yours
Annie Fields.

[*Page 4*]

I was almost sorry to know that very poor little lost letter [ever *or* even *?*] reached you! Fancy sometimes leads [me *written over something*] to think that you have said what you felt in a letter but alas! how that fancy speeds away when the results are spread before you! but at least I am always most affectionately yours (and his).

Annie Fields.

Notes

June 1896: Fields suggests that she is writing in June or possibly early July. In about 1894, the Aldriches began spending their summers by the sea at the Crags (built in 1893) in Tenant's Harbor, ME, where Jewett and Fields often visited them. In 1895, Jewett and Fields rented their own cottage near Tenant's Harbor. On 15 June 1898, Fields's sister, Elizabeth Adams died, and in December 1896, their mutual friend, Henry Lille Pierce, died. I have arbitrarily chosen 1896 for this letter, on the assumption that Fields really means that she and Jewett have visited the Aldriches at the Crags more than once. However, 1896 remains a possible year.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick Maine
[*End letterhead*]
July 1st

[*1896*]*

Dear Loulie

Thank you so much for your delightful letter. I had an attack of wishing I could fly to Folly Cove* and take the place of some of the artists who had left me room, but this July is full of plots and plans and I am going away next week for a few days in an Eastward direction with

[*Page 2*]

A. F. We are going to stay a few days with the Aldriches* and then I shall leave her to go elsewhere and I shall come home again to go away with my sister Mrs. Eastman & Theodore. -- Theodore took his preliminaries last week -- it was a great excitement for the family!

I wish that I were writing as much as you are painting

[*Page 3*]

-- perhaps the Clam* would kindly assist me if I were in his neighborhood! It has been delightful weather and not the least delightful part has been these comfortable rainy days which I suppose you must have minded a good deal. I wish I could see what you are doing: It sounds so very nice all about the sketches. Mrs.

[*Page 4*]

Fields remembers Folly Cove, and sighs for Pigeon Cove "when it was all like that" ----- I am obliged to confess that I have never been beyond Gloucester, and there is a standing grievance that once when I was away ^from Manchester^ a party was made to take the little Danas* to the end of the railroad so that they saw Pigeon Cove and its neighborhood while I did not. It stands for a Carcassonne* at present, but

[*Page 5 on letterhead*]

What would life be with without a Carcassonne let us ask !!

-- I am glad that you were pleased with my note of acceptance (!) of the rabbit. I thought it was a fine letter of its sort, but nothing to be compared with the rabbit itself.

I had a nice letter from Mrs. Howe* the other day from Venice, but it has not

[*Page 6*]

seemed to me as if she had been in very good spirits all this winter. Do you feel that in her letters? ---- or is it only my own imagination? I hope it does not mean that she is not well but she speaks of going to places and doing things and all that.

Yes. Mrs. Fields & I are going to Mrs. Cabot's* in

[*Page 7*]

August to make a [*deleted word*] visit but I haven't seen my way to The Shore except at that time. I shall be sure to see you then and it will be nice ^to^ be near neighbors. I am so glad to hear of Miss King's* being better. I did not get to see them at all which made me feel sorry -- last winter, but then I didn't

[*Page 8*]

really have my "winter" except a fortnight or so in March did I? -------

Good bye dear Loulie. I really wish that I could look over your shoulder this minute to see what you are painting, and I am ever your affectionate friend

S.O.J.

O O O*

Notes

1896: Jewett's date is difficult to read. Columbia's archivist has read the date as 1891, but on 1 July 1891, Jewett was deeply involved in the Berwick Academy centennial. She may have written 1895 or 1896. As she reports in the letter that her nephew, Theodore Jewett Eastman, has just taken his preliminary exams for entering Harvard University in 1897, it seems very likely that the letter was composed in 1896, or perhaps in 1895 if he took them very early.

Mrs. Howe: Alice Greenwood (Mrs. George Dudley) Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Folly Cove: Folly Cove is on Ipswich Bay, Rockport, Cape Ann, Massachusetts, not far northeast from the Dresels' summer cottage in Beverly.

Clam: Presumably, Dresel has reported painting a clam, or eating them while painting. Jewett seems to be joking about the inspirational value of clams.

Pigeon Cove: Pigeon Cove on Cape Ann in Massachusetts is roughly 10 miles north of Gloucester, MA.

little Danas: Jewett and Fields were friends of Richard Henry Dana III (1851-1931), who had married Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's daughter, Edith, and lived near the Longfellows and the Horsfords at 113 Brattle Street in Cambridge. Key to Correspondents. The little Danas would be their children, who were close in age to Theodore Eastman.

Carcassonne: Almost certainly Jewett refers to the ancient town in southern France, which it appears she had not yet visited.

Mrs. Cabot's: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

Miss King's: Caroline Howard King. Key to Correspondents.

O: At the bottom of page 8, Jewett has added a line of three spaced circles. In other letters of this year, she indicates that such a letter would stand for a kiss.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Editors of *The Outlook* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

Editorial Staff	The Outlook
Lyman Abbott Editor in Chief	A - Family - Paper
Hamilton W. Mabie Associate Editor	Clinton - Hall - 13 - Astor - Place
R. D. Townsend	New York
Charles B Spahr	
Elbert V. Baldwin	
Amory M. Bradford	
James M. Watson	
Mrs. Lillian W. Betts	

[*End letterhead*]

July 1, 1896

Dear Madam:

The Outlook wishes to print next year* in its Magazine Numbers a group of short stories -- say from 6000 to 8000 words each -- by representative American writers. Our plan is to have these stories deal with different sections of the country so that the whole group will in a way cover many phases of American life and character, and to have the general flavor of rural or village life.

We would be extremely glad to have from you such a story dealing with life in New England. Will you kindly let us know whether you have on hand such a story which you could allow us to examine; whether you would be willing to write such a story and submit it to us on approval; or, in case neither of these propositions meets your views, whether you would undertake to write such a story for us on an absolute agreement of acceptance? Kindly let us know also the price you would put upon the work.

Yours sincerely,
THE EDITORS OF THE OUTLOOK.
Miss Sarah Orne Jewett,

Notes

next year: Though *The Outlook* eventually reprinted several of Jewett's stories beginning in 1894, the only story to make its first appearance there was "The Spur of the Moment" in January 1902.

The typescript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett

Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 172. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Cabot Wheelwright

2nd of July

[*1896*]*

Begin letterhead]

South Berwick.
Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mrs Wheelwright

Thank you so much for your kind note. I have been meaning to write to you and to say how sorry I am that I see no chance of accepting such a delightful invitation. It would add to the pleasure to have Rose* for company, but indeed I should like very much to see you and Mr. Wheelwright and

[*Page 2*]

to stay with you in your house, while you must know by this time the depth of my feelings about the coast of Maine!

This is a very busy summer for me and I am not likely to get far from Berwick -- at least I must be within easy reach of the Riverside Press, and I am surer of giving up some engagements that I have already made than I am of adding to them

[*Page 3*]

and being able to keep a promise.

-- It is not enough to get a long story ready for the magazine = now I am making some changes for the book, and it is very slow work going over so much material and doing it twice, once for the printing here and once for London where I ought to have sent the sheets long ago. And when all that is done, I must lay the ghost of my conscience about some short stories, very long

[*Page 4*]

overdue.

I hope that you will not think that I am making excuses -- they are Solemn Reasons if ever there were any!

As winter comes on I am going to begin an idle holiday, and then everybody else will be busy and I may get nobody to play with!

With love and thanks and sincere wishes that I could come

Yours most truly
Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

1896: F.S. Stoddart says: "From the reference to working on the London and Boston editions later in the letter, it is my guess that 1896 is the date of this letter. The book must be *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, since it was the only book of Jewett's to be published simultaneously both in Boston and London."

I: Jewett appears to have underlined this word, but that is not certain.

Rose: Probably Rose Lamb. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME, JEWE.1 -- Folders A74-5: to Sarah Cabot Wheelwright, 1898-1901. Scott Frederick Stoddart's annotated transcription appeared in his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*, copyright by Stoddart, 1988. New transcription and notes.

Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry to Mary Rice and Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

Exeter July 4 [*1896*]*

My dearest daughters

It seems hardly necessary to write separately to you as I know mine are family letters; but all the same I mean you individually, Sarah my dear you are already our [jewel *?*] with letters but I direct my letters usually to Mary{.} You are both so dear and kind that I am penetrated "every* time that I think of it, which is often. This being a play day I mean to write up all my letters, which are few now. I shall write to Abba.* She wrote to Fanny last week. We had Lill Walker and Elisabeth Gilbert to here, in a short visit they made at the Bells. Lill said Abba's ankle was much swelled and very painful at first, but she was now doing well -- Elisabeth is a pleasing girl, not really pretty but a nice girl, a girls "looks" can never be decided at eleven -- One never knows how she may be at 18 --

[*Page 2*]

Thank you very much for your mention of Braintree. Bert wrote to that place and the Agency and was answered that they had some candidates in view from whom one would be selected -- A place in Providence has been mentioned but [*unrecognized word*] the ideal place of all, if Bert can be so fortunate as to get it. The Agency wrote to Bert they had recommended him as their best man, to Greenough & Noble,* to teach the classics & German -- You see it is exactly what he is looking for, and is [fitted *corrected*] for. The

salary is not large 1500! but salary is of far less importance where such a position is concerned -- but you can see the advantages, you know Mary how much we talked of this school, I little expecting to have any interest outside of Theodore in it. Of course Bert is not there, and I do not dare to hope too much. Mr Greenough has taken the Credentials to Kennebunkport to Mr Noble, and we hope and pray it may turn out

[*Page 3*]

2

favorably. I know you will be interested in this, for you are so good to us at all, and just now we are pretty full of this business. Pa is very anxious for this as it is the kind of place he would like Bert to get into -- I hope no great disappoint^ment^ is in store for us all. It is the first case we have taken much interest in, but this is what we all want except in point of salary, but that will doubtless be raised if Bert succeeds. I am sure of his capabilities for his classes passed the best exams of any in the Academy except while in Chemistry, a small class of twenty or so. Pa had a beautiful time with you and he enjoyed meeting Dr. Hayes* immensely. It did him a world of good, and cheered him up. He even hopes to make a little excursion -- perhaps to Nantucket -- but as usual he can't go just now! I find you both were as good to him as you were to me

[*Unsigned MS ends here.*]

Notes

1896: This year in brackets was penciled in another hand. Almost certainly it is correct. See the notes below.

"every: The quotation mark is fairly clear here, but its purpose is not known.

Abba .. Fanny ... Lill Walker ... Elisabeth Gilbert ... Bells: Abba probably is Abby Gilman Fiske (1862-1947), daughter of Perry's brother, Francis Allen Fisk (1818-1887).

Fanny is Perry's daughter, Frances Perry Dudley.

Lill Walker probably is a relative of Perry's mother, Mary Walker Emery Fisk.

Gilbert has not yet been identified.

The Bells probably are the family of Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

Note that in various records, the family name is spelled both "Fisk" and "Fiske."

Greenough & Noble: Noble & Greenough boarding school in Dedham, MA. Wikipedia.

According to Paula Blanchard, *Sarah Orne Jewett* (2002) p. 305, in 1896 Theodore Jewett Eastman transferred from the Berwick Academy to the Noble and Greenough School in the fall of 1896 to prepare himself for Harvard University.

Educator and popular author of juvenile fiction featuring school sports, Albertus T. Dudley, Fanny Perry's husband, graduated from Harvard in 1887 and worked for several years at Phillips Exeter Academy before moving to Noble & Greenough, where he taught until 1917. Seacoastonline, "Historically Speaking: The writings of Albertus T. Dudley," by Barbara Rimkunas.

Dr. Hayes: It is not yet known which Dr. Hayes, Lucretia's husband, Dr. William Gilman Perry, is likely to have met in South Berwick. A candidate is Dr. Irving B. Hayes (b. 1862), who had local connections in nearby Dover, NH and had recently begun practice near Springfield, MA.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Box 11, Folder 1 GUSN-286510.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Sunday, 5*th July*. [*1896*]*

. . . I have been reading the beginning of "The Pearl of Orr's Island"* and finding it just as clear and perfectly original and strong as it seemed to me in my thirteenth or fourteenth year, when I read it first. I never shall forget the exquisite flavor and reality of delight that it gave me. I do so long to read it with you. It is classical-historical -- anything you like to say, if you can give it high praise enough. I haven't read it for ten years at least, but *there it is!* Alas, that she couldn't finish it in the same noble key of simplicity and harmony; but a poor writer is at the mercy of much unconscious opposition. You must throw everything and everybody aside at times, but a woman made like Mrs. Stowe cannot bring herself to that cold selfishness of the moment for one's work's sake, and the recompense for her loss is a divine touch here and there in an incomplete piece of work. I felt at the funeral that none of us could really know and feel the greatness of the moment, but it has seemed to grow more great to me ever since. I love to think of the purple flowers you laid on the coffin.

I hope the York visit will be worth while. I look forward to seeing Mrs. Lawrence* more than anything, and to the funny Indians, and the lights across the harbor at night. I am so glad you have seen the little place and know where I shall be.

Notes

1896: Because this letter seems to have been written soon after Harriet Beecher Stowe's funeral, the date must be 1896. Stowe died on July 1,

1896 and, according to the New York *Times*, her funeral took place on July 3.

The Pearl of Orr's Island: Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) is best known for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852); she published *The Pearl of Orr's Island* in 1862.

Mrs. Lawrence: One possibility for Mrs. Lawrence's identity is Julia Lawrence. "William Lawrence (1850–1941) was elected as the 7th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts (1893–1927). Lawrence was the son of the notable textile industrialist Amos Adams Lawrence and a member of the influential Boston family, founded by his great-grandfather and American revolutionary, Samuel Lawrence. His grandfather was the famed philanthropist Amos Lawrence" (Wikipedia). He and his wife, Julia (1853?-1900), summered in York, ME.

Another possibility is Elizabeth Chapman Lawrence (1825-1905), the second wife of Timothy Bigelow Lawrence. See notes for Sarah Orne Jewett to Sara Norton, September 16, 1908, and *E.L., the Bread Box Papers: The High Life of a Dazzling Victorian Lady: a Biography of Elizabeth Chapman Lawrence* (1983) by Helen Hartman Gemmill. Daughter of Henry Chapman (1804-1891), a Pennsylvania congressman, she was a popular and cosmopolitan woman who, after her marriage, moved in the same circles as Annie Fields and Jewett and corresponded with Sarah Wyman Whitman.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Augusta Ward

York Harbour. 7 July 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.
Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Mrs Ward

I have had such a pleasure tonight -- Mr Johnson* of the Century Magazine is my neighbour in this seaside place and he has lent me the August and September numbers of Sir George Tressady* -- This I shall long bless him for -- I had been saying everything that was in my heart about

[*Page 2*]

the number for July and he told me what treasures were in his keeping. So from his house to my hotel came a precious package on a rainy night and I have been sitting late here, reading and blessing you!

I wonder if readers who are only readers can know what a noble story it is! I believe that one must have tried to be a writer --- [who *corrected*] can have the reward of really knowing what a great work you have done.

[*Page 3*]

-- How new it is, how true and fine and held in hand; how distinctly you have made that greatest character that an artist can make: a person who may be loved! Marcella will always look me straight in the eyes. I cannot help loving her more and more and holding her very real and helpful -- I can hardly say how I feel about her in this poor letter, nor how full of rejoicing my heart is to think that now, in this very day so great a story has been written{,} so beautiful a story; high as your work has gone before,

[*Page 4*]

this seems to me high above it: it moves on like life itself with steady growth and change from level to level, one can add nothing or wish to take away. It has the inevitable feeling of the best art of all, to which I can but reach with all my heart -- and thank you here with deepest gratitude. Beside the trivial things such a story comes to take its place like something from another world --

Mrs. Fields and I read the July number together last week. -- These great scenes that come next so noble, so touching, I shall be so eager to share with her. We have kept you and dear Dorothy* tenderly in mind

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

all these long months. I wonder if Dorothy will not write soon and tell me how you are? I long more than ever now to see you both again.

With sincerely love yours ever
Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

Sir George Tressady: Mrs. Ward's novel appeared in 1896. Marcella Maxwell, a main character, also was the subject of Ward's 1894 novel, *Marcella*.

Dorothy: Ward's daughter, Dorothy Ward. Key to Correspondents.

This manuscript is held by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin. Manuscript Collection MS-4409 (Ward, T.H.) Misc. Container 2.4, Jewett, Sarah Orne to Ward, Mary Augusta.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ednah Dow Cheney*

[*Summer 1896*]*
[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick, Maine
[*End letterhead*]

Dear M^rs^ Cheney

You are so kind and I am so sorry but I have just promised Mr. Sawyer* to go on the river at four -- I hope to

[*Page 2*]

see you very soon

Yours affectionately
Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Cheney: Smith College Special Collections archivists identify Mrs. Cheney as Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney (1824-1904).

1896: This date is speculative, supported by the possibility that the Mr. Sawyer mentioned is George C. Sawyer, who moved to Cambridge, MA in 1896; see note below. Other letters of 1896 show Jewett and her family associating with the Sawyers and Mrs. Cheney.

Sawyer: Possibly this is George C. Sawyer (1834-1914), husband of a Jewett sisters correspondent, Mary Abbott Gorham (1831-1934). After graduating from Harvard in 1855, George Sawyer served as principal of the Utica (NY) Free Academy (1858-1896) before moving to Cambridge, MA. Mary Sawyer, a correspondent of Sarah and Mary Jewett, was the daughter Dr. David Gorham (Harvard 1821, married to Deborah) of Exeter, NH, a probable associate of the Jewetts' grandfather, Dr. William Perry.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Smith College Special Collections, Northampton, MA, Letters --Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1890-96, undated. New England Hospital for Women and Children records, Sophia Smith Collection, SSC-MS-00339.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Thursday afternoon
[*9 July 1896*]*

Dear Mary

This is a peaceful day after one of, I cant say storms, yesterday, but a day when it made a good deal o' sea as Cap'n Atkinson* used to say. Sister Carrie and I had the morning diversified by a meeting of the York County Medical Association {--} Mrs. & Mr. Dr. Sleeper* being present, and the Willises. They all went off in a big buckboard right after dinner ^to the Long Sands^.* and the two latter have just been up to say goodby. I was busy

[*Page 2*]

writing until just before they came at half past Eleven when I went down and sat about till dinner time [chiefly *corrected*] with Ca-ay and Mrs. Sawyer* and only hope that I wasnt one too many in that case. The great day of the visit is tomorrow. Carrie has written to Annie Lord* to come down & spend Sunday. I haven't yet decided about Conway.* I [do *corrected*] like to tidy up my little visits and I dont believe I shall wish to go the last of the month. but I shall wait and see what time I get through ^writing^ tomorrow

[*Page 3*]

and then [telegraph *corrected*]. I have thought of you many times today and I hope you got to the top of the hill* in good season and not too hot. They have been saying that it was very hot inland today. Carrie and I are going to see the Johnsons* and I must close this letter now with much love to you and A.F. & "Sister Lizzie{.}" Stubby walked the [links* *or* lines *?*] with Mr. Sawyer -- they had a nice time at Mrs. Cheney's* yesterday. So no more at present from a Sister.

Notes

9 July 1896: An envelope associated with this letter in the MWWC folder, cancelled 10 July 1896, is addressed to "Mifs Jewett" c/o Mrs. James T. Fields at Manchester by the Sea, MA.

Cap'n Atkinson: Captain Atkinson has not yet been identified.

Mrs. & Mr. Dr. Sleeper: Almost certainly, this is Dr. Charles M. Sleeper (1856-1924). According to his obituary in the *Portsmouth Herald* (NH), he was a graduate of Bowdoin Medical College (1883) and was active in Maine democratic politics. His wife was Julia F. Sleeper (1861-). See the *Herald* for Wednesday, August 27, 1924, p. 9.

Though Jewett seems to be joking, there was, in fact, a York County (Maine) Medical Society, and its minutes appear in the *Journal of the Maine Medical Association*.

Jewett may have written "Mis.' & Mr. Dr. Sleeper."

Willises: Probably Jewett refers to Dr. John Lemuel Murray Willis (1856-1924), founder of the Eliot (Maine) Historical Society. In 1896, he was married to Carrie Estelle Ham Willis (1859-1923). When Jewett correspondent William Dean Howells spent his summers in Kittery, ME, Willis was his physician. He may also have been associated with the nearby Green Acre Property, which was at one time a resort frequented by Jewett's friend, John

Greenleaf Whittier. See *Journal of the Maine Medical Association*, 1 January 1925, p. 16.
Jewett appears to have written: Willise's.

Long Sands: Long Sands Beach at York, ME.
Jewett seems clearly to have placed a period at this point, and then to have continued the sentence. She does this again on the next page at "last of the month."

Ca-ay and Mrs. Sawyer: Ca-ay probably is Carrie Jewett Eastman.
The identities of Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer remain uncertain. Possibly, they are George C. Sawyer (1834-1914) and Mary Abbott Gorham (1831-1934).

Annie Lord: Among Jewett's neighbors in South Berwick was Annie A. Peverly Lord (1865-1950), though the Annie Lord in this letter seems not to reside in South Berwick.

Conway: Jewett is contemplating a trip to the White Mountain resort town of Conway, NH.

top of the hill: Jewett writes to Mary at the home of Annie Fields, on Thunderbolt Hill in Manchester by the Sea.

Johnsons: Probably Jewett refers to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Underwood Johnson, whom Jewett met several times during the summer of 1896. Key to Correspondents.

"Sister Lizzie": Annie Adams Fields's sister, Elizabeth Adams.

links: While "the links" sounds like a very specific location, no place of this name is known to have existed near South Berwick in 1896. The Oxford English Dictionary defines "links" as "the ground on which golf is played" from 1728 to the present, but a golf course came to South Berwick not until a century after this letter. OED offers another more likely usage: "Comparatively level or gently undulating sandy ground near the sea-shore, covered with turf, coarse grass, etc." While this usage was in Scots dialect, it continued at least into the 19th Century, and Jewett was a fan of Scots writers, particularly, Sir Walter Scott. Research assistance: Norma Keim and Wendy Pirsig, Old Berwick Historical Society.

Mrs. Cheney's: Smith College Special Collections archivists identify Mrs. Cheney as Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney (1824-1904).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection: Jewett Correspondence MWWC0196_02_00_130_01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to the Society of the Philistines*

Date July 9th 1896

To the Bursar, East Aurora, N.Y.

I hereby accept the honor conferred and enclose One Dollar, being my annual dues as a member of the Society of the Philistines, & request you to send me the Philistine Magazine for one year and documents as proposed.

Sarah Orne Jewett
South Berwick
Maine

Notes

Philistines: See Jewett to the Society of the Philistines of 9 December 1895. At that time, it appears, Jewett was a member of the organization, which published a magazine and offered programs, such as a dinner with Stephen Crane in 1895.
Elbert Green Hubbard (1856-1915) was an American author, best remembered as founder of the Roycroft artisan community in East Aurora, near Buffalo, NY. Wikipedia says: "Hubbard edited and published two magazines, *The Philistine --A Periodical of Protest* and *The FRA -- A Journal of Affirmation*. *The Philistine* was bound in brown butcher paper and featured largely satire and whimsy. Hubbard himself quipped that the cover was butcher paper because: 'There is meat inside.'"

This document consists of a red-printed gold-colored card, with blanks that Jewett has filled in. What she has written is underlined. Top center is a note that reads "cash 1.00"; it appears handwritten in pencil, probably not in Jewett's hand.
The card is held by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 2 ALS, AL to Society of the Philistines, 1899 July 9; Elbert Hubbard Collection, misc. Box 11.2.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

South Berwick
14 July -- Tuesday
[*1896*]*

Dearest Annie

We all met in Portsmouth and I was glad to get home last night into the shade of the trees. There had been a nice little shower and the garden was so fresh and cool. Mary had such a nice time with you and Sister Lizzie* and Mrs. Ellis is expected tonight. I am going to Mrs. Cabots tomorrow afternoon and in the meantime

[*Page 2*]

there are ever so many things to do

-- I feel quite tired today after hurrying so with my work and all the great heat -- which was a kind of stimulus at the time about writing and not so hard to bear as if I had been idle and thinking more about it. Yesterday morning in all the heat dear Mrs. Lawrence* came over and sat a long time on the piazza with me, and we had such a delightful time together. I never shall forget it. You know what

[*Page 3*]

a sweet eager way she has of telling about the books and people she is interested in. She talked about Longfellow* in a way that would have gone to your heart -- I shall tell you about it -- (perhaps day after tomorrow !!) She was confronted by his reticence & dullness or dumbness at first and they went on so for a good while but at last there was a day -- one of Mrs. Bell's* [point *?*] times as we said. But we talked of books -- she begged me to ask you

[*Page 4*]

to read an Italian novel [Daniele Corties *so this appears*]* which seems to be her Ekkehard! She said "Give her my best love and tell her to read it -- ": so we must have it -- you will read it and tell me. I am going to write to Schoenhofs for it now!!

Give much love to Eva & Mary O'Brion.* I shall see you very soon.* Please write to me care of Mrs. Cabot so I shall get it tomorrow night -- when I get there at five and I will come and [answer *?*] it next day.

P. L.

I have been interrupted as I tried to write

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

this poor gobbit of a letter so that I haven't said what I wished by half

[Currant *?*] Jelly

Notes

1896: July 14 falls on a Tuesday in 1891 and in 1896. Because Jewett mentions Fields's sister, Elizabeth, the letter must have been written before 1898, when she died. The earliest letter so far found that mentions Mary O'Brion probably is from 2 October 1894. So, there is some support for placing this letter in 1896 rather than in 1891.

Sister Lizzie: Though Jewett seems to have written "Lizzie," this almost certainly is Annie Fields's sister, Elizabeth (Lissie) Adams.

Mrs. Cabots: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Ellis: Probably Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Lawrence: Mrs. Lawrence probably was Elizabeth Chapman, widow of T. Bigelow Lawrence. She was the subject of *E.L., the Bread Box Papers: The High Life of a Dazzling Victorian Lady: a Biography of Elizabeth Chapman Lawrence* (1983) by Helen Hartman Gemmill.

Longfellow: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Bell's: Almost certainly Helen Olcott (Choate) Bell. Key to Correspondents.

Daniele Corties: Almost certainly this is *Daniele Cortis* (1885), a novel by Antonio Fogazzaro (1842-1911), which appeared in an English translation by Caroline Tilton in 1887.

Ekkehard: *Ekkehard* (1857, English translation by Sofie Delffs 1872) is a historical romance by Joseph Victor von Scheffel (1826-1886).

Schoenhofs: Schoenhof's Foreign Books in Cambridge, MA sold foreign language books from 1856 until 2017. That Jewett is ordering from this store suggests that she wants Fogazzaro in the original Italian, which Fields could read, but Jewett probably could not.

*Eva & Mary O'Brio*n: Eva probably is Baroness Eva von Blomberg. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Eliza O'Brion (1859-1930 -- unconfirmed life dates), Boston-based concert pianist, private teacher, and instructor at Wellesley College. Her name appears regularly on programs as a piano soloist and accompanist with various groups and orchestras. She often performed with the Latvian immigrant composer and pianist Olga von Radecki (1858-1933). Among von Radecki's compositions is a setting of Jewett's poem, "Boat Song."

soon: Jewett appears to have made drawings at the beginning and end of the next sentence. These may be fists, each with an index finger pointed toward the sentence.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields papers: mss FL 5552. This manuscript has been damaged by water, making parts of the transcription less than normally certain.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eliza Tyler Stowe

14 July 1896
[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

My dear Eliza

I came home last night from a few days absence and found the book, which I return, and this most dear and beautiful photograph made so [doubley *so spelled*] by your mother's writing and your own. I shall keep it on my desk here where I can always

[*Page 2*]

look up and see it and remember what she was and what she did, not only for my country but for me in my work and life.

I have thought often of you and Hattie* since the day we were together -- I am sure that we shall always feel near to each other now, and I hope you will not forget how sincerely and affectionately I am

Ever your friend
Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Hattie: Hattie Stowe, Eliza's sister, twin daughters of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Cambridge, MA, in the Beecher-Stowe family Papers, 1798-1956. Letters to the twins. from Sarah Orne Jewett (2 letters): Box: 5 Identifier: A-102: M-45, 280.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Eliot Norton

Wednesday July 15th
[1896]*
[*Begin letterhead*]
Pride's Crossing
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mr Norton

Do you happen to know of anyone who would be a good master for our Academy? I have just learned, to my great joy, that the present incumbent has resigned and I am eager to do anything that I can to get the best possible man in his place. The salary has only been $1800. with

[*Page 2*]

a sub=master who teaches chemistry, geometry &c and two young women = the principal has taught Greek and Latin ^the higher Latin^ and (I think) logic. It seems to me that, judging by the way the school has grown since its celebration of anniversaries and the dedication of the new building have advertised it so much, ~~that~~ it is likely to pay a larger salary presently

[*Page 3*]

and that a really fine man who has some distinction or character and a love for his profession, would not find it too narrow a place. There were a hundred and thirty 'scholars' last year and a good many out of town pupils. I hear that there were many applications at once for the mastership . .

And so I venture to give you the

[*Page 4*]

trouble of this note: there is just a chance that you may have someone in mind -- Would you be so very kind as to write -- or perhaps Sally* will send me word here (at Mrs. J. S. Cabot's)* and then I shall do what I can to further this important affair. But very likely you will not think of anyone who is wishing for such a place and then do not give yourself the trouble to answer --- I thank you very much at any rate for giving me the feeling that I could write to ask you!

Yours most sincerely
Sarah O. Jewett

N**otes**

1896: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Norton at Ashfield, cancelled on 16 July 1894. However, July 15 did not fall on Wednesday that year. Because Jewett speaks of the academy's centennial (1891) and the dedication of the Fogg Memorial Building (1894) as recent events, I have dated this letter in the first following year in which 15 July fell on Wednesday.

Sally: Sara Norton. Key to Correspondents.

Cabot's: Susan Burley Howes Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Charles Eliot Norton Papers, MS Am 1088, Box: 21 (3930-3948).

Annie Adams Fields to William Hayes Ward

[*20 July 1896*]

My dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your kind note and for all the pleasant things you say in your editorial.*

Believe me
very [truly *?*] yours
Annie Fields

Manchester.* July 20th 1896 --

I am glad you remember your visit with pleasure.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin*]

Mifs Jewett would send you her kind regards as well with mine but she is away just now --

Notes

editorial: It seems probable that Ward has written about Fields's new book, *Authors and Friends*, in *The Independent*, volume 49. Unfortunately, this volume is not currently available at the Hathi Trust, which provides links to a number of other volumes.

The catalog entry for this manuscript at the John Hay Library identifies recipient as Cyrenus Osborne Ward (1831-1902), but provides no rationale for this choice. It is more likely that W. H. Ward would have written an editorial that Fields would have read, as he was in publishing and a friend of both Fields and Jewett.

Manchester: Fields's summer home was on Thunderbolt Hill in Manchester by the Sea, MA.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the John Hay Library of Brown University, Ms.52.89.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

[*Before 23 July 1896*]*
[*Letterhead*]*

a great deal of sketching & it is hard to give it up. But I am most thankful to be with friends that are absorbing & amid new scenes. At home in Beverly such enforced idleness would have been this summer perfectly intolerable. The time with Marianne* has been far too short -- my Paris oculist insists upon seeing me early in August. I left Paris about three weeks ago & have to be back there next week. M. & I will have had not four weeks together & even

[*Page 2*]

this time has been interrupted & unsatisfactory in some ways. I am so sorry I shall not go to stay with them near Dresden at all. I always love it there & it is quiet & easy. We have been passing a fortnight at Toblach in the Pusterthal (Tyrol see the heading of this sheet!) We took a great many fascinating excursions especially through the Ampezzo Thal to Cortina. I do not know whether you know this Dolomite region -- the mountains are very steep & craggy & bright pink & lilac colored, too unnatural to paint but wonderful to look at. Now we are in lower [tamer *?*] regions. It is a quaint little inn with its feet nearly in the water.

[*Page 3*]

We take our meals out-of-doors at little tables under the trees & use the lake for a finger-bowl. It is not a cool place excepting where one is in or on the water. I go in bathing every day & one can never stay in an unlimited time as the water is like a warm bath. M. swims very well & I have a most remarkable arrangement -- two great [*deletion*] reeds tied together which keep me afloat & then I make the most interesting attempts at swimming. I think I should learn if I could stay here longer. These long journeys especially in such hot weather, are not pleasant -- it is a whole day from here to Innsbruck

[*Page 4*]

6.

& then a day & night to Paris. Ellis* is to meet me there & I think in the intervals of visiting my doctor we shall get in some more cathedrals & chateaus. At least if I can't paint I can "boss" his photographing. I hardly know how to squeeze in all that remains to be done before our date for sailing -- September 30th --

I have not seen my German relations at all yet & the friends in Aussee Professor & Mrs. Seegen are clamouring for me & deeply injured that I cannot be in two places at once. I am going there from Paris -- it is a tremendous journey for a two weeks' visit but must be done.

[*Page 5*]*

9.

Miss [Rackermann *?*]* is at [Aix *?*] & going through what I should call a terrific cure -- I only hope the result will be in proportion. I cannot tell you what a delightful travelling companion she proved -- we got on together only better & better the longer we were together & I should have been quite heart broken to part if I had

[*Page 6*]

been going to anyone but Marianne. I am sorry for Louise { -- } the poor thing is quite alone in her cure { -- } however it is almost over now. I was more delighted than I can say to get your dear letter. I was longing for news of you. The aunts do not write & Ellis of course has given no American news lately as he has been in England some time. It made me quite homesick to think of your being at Mrs Cabot's* -- how nice it was last year! I hope if she gave a lunch for you this time that, as an exception she could come

[*Page 7*]

11.

to it herself! I shall always remember last year because it was the last time my mother went anywhere & I like to think how well she looked &

what a belle she was. Dear S.O.J. I wish when you write you would tell me whether A.F. ever got a little package I sent her just before I left home -- May 9th. It was Alden's* book which I returned & I sent her a little paper cutter which had belonged to Mamma & the photograph from the old picture which you liked in a little frame. I may

[*Page 8*]

have lost a letter from her & think you will know whether she received them. I am glad to hear of the Pointed Firs going on & long to read the last. I should ask you to send them but this is my last chance for getting reading or writing done so I must wait till I get home. I have left a great deal unsaid but dictating is unsatisfactory if one is not used to it. I thank you for all you said & for unwritten things between the lines in your letter. Give my dearest love to A.F. & with a great deal to you I am

your loving
Loulie.

Notes

1896: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME, and cancelled in New York on 23 July. One cannot, of course, be certain that the envelope belongs with this letter. Internal evidence, however, establishes the year as 1896, when Dresel's mother died and when Jewett's novel, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896) appeared in serial during the first half of the year.

Letterhead: Though this page is written on letterhead, it clearly is not the first page of the letter. One or more opening pages are missing.

The letter is written on decorated stationery. There are four full color images. Upper left is a building on a bluff with the title Sonnenburg Bei Bruneck. Bottom left is a bouquet of flowers. Center left is a shield containing a red tower on a hilltop. Right is the largest image of a village in a valley, with mountains in the background, entitled Gruss aus dem Pusterthal (Greetings from Pustertal). The Puster valley is in the Tyrolian Alps of Austria and Italy.

Marianne: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Ellis: Dresel's younger brother. Key to Correspondents.

Page 5: This page is also decorated stationery, an engraving of a chateau. Dresel has labeled it above the image in the top left corner of the page: Chateau of Chaumont.

Dresel has numbered this as page 9, indicating that there should be 8 preceding pages in the letter, though there are only four.

Seegen: This transcription is uncertain, but probably correct. Dresel refers to Austrian physician Joset Seegen (1822-1904), who served as a spa doctor and researched on how mineral waters helped in treating disease, particularly diabetes. He published a study on Diabetes mellitus in 1893. See Czech Wikipedia.

Miss Rackerman: It appears that her full name is Louise Rackermann. However, the transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

Alden's: If, as would seem likely, Dresel refers to Jewett correspondent Henry Mills Alden, his recent books in 1896 were *A Study of Death* (1895) and *God in his World: An Interpretation* (1896). Fields might well have loaned either to a woman whose mother had died recently.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College in the Ellis Gray Loring family Papers, 1824-1925: Call Number: A-115; Box 2.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Stonehurst, Intervale, N. H.,
Tuesday night [*Summer* 1896]*

Such a nice day -- out all day up in the Carter Notch* direction, trout-fishing, with the long drive there and the long drive home again in time for supper. It was a lovely brook and I caught seven good trout and one small one -- which eight trout-persons you should have for your breakfast if only you were near enough. It was not alone the fishing, but the delightful loneliness and being out of doors. Once I was standing on a log that had fallen across the stream, and I looked round to see a solemn little squirrel who had started to cross *his bridge!* and discovered me. He looked as if he had never seen such a thing before, and he sat up and took a good look, that squirrel did, and then discreetly went back. You ought to have seen us looking at each other; *I* didn't know there was anybody round either!! I went off alone down the bed of the great brook, and was gone three hours, and the boys went off another way.* It really did me good, and I got wet and tired hopping from stone to stone, and liked it all as much as ever.

Notes

Summer 1896: Annie Fields dates this letter in August 1896, but this seems unlikely because there is strong evidence that Jewett was cruising the Maine coast with her nephew at that time. See

the notes for the following Summer 1896 letter to Louisa Dresel.

Carter Notch: Carter Notch is a "high mountain pass through the White Mountains of New Hampshire." Jewett apparently was staying at Stonehurst Manor, which in 1896 was the North Conway private home of Helen Bigelow Merriman. Key to Correspondents.

the boys: If Jewett is vacationing in New Hampshire with boys, they are likely her nephew, Theodore Jewett Eastman, and a friend.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Mary Augusta Ward to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
STOCKS.
TRING.
[*End letterhead*]
July 28 / 96

My dear Mifs Jewett

Your letter about the August and September numbers of "Sir George Tressady"* gave me the greatest possible pleasure. The generous & delightful sympathy of it indeed have cheered me very much through the last days of revision -- now

[*Page 2*]

just over -- and have made me less nervous and anxious about the book's publication. But nervous and anxious one must always be I am afraid! -- and I foresee of course that there are many people who will dislike the subject of the story as such. But thank you dear Mifs Jewett, very much. The sympathy of another writer is specially welcome to me; and it delights

[*Page 3*]

me that you and Mr Rudyard Kipling*-- so I hear through the Century -- should have been among the first to like & praise what I have tried to do in "George Tressady".

... I hope and believe that you will think I have much improved the book in revision. While some of it was writing I was so unwell that I consciously [shirked *corrected*] some of the scenes of high emotion. I had not

[*Page 4*]

the physical energy to write them out as I knew they should be written, though I did the very best I could with them. One in particular, the scene in Mile End house before Tressady's vote, I merely summarized. I tried in vain but I could not realise it ^in detail -- I was too tired.^ Now however I have written it out, & I have expanded the critical scene between Tressady and Marcella so as to make her, -- I hope -- more sympathetic & intelligible to the reader. But I have not

[*Page 5 on letterhead*]

touched the scene between the ^two^ women -- with that I felt I had done all I could.

I fear the catastrophe in the October number may seem to you somewhat arbitrary. But it is really not so. The second subject of the book, so to speak, is George Tressady's relation, not to his wife or Marcella, but to life as a whole, -- the tragic contrast between a particular temperament and the fate it is called upon

[*Page 6*]

to bear. All the early scenes in [truth *?*] following on the first picture of the young fellow flushed from his election success & carelessly flinging himself into marriage -- are meant to point forward to the end.

Here is a long screed, dear friend. And I have still to thank you as I ought to have done long ago for "Nancy"* and her charming companions. I enjoyed the

[*Page 7*]

book very much, as I always enjoy your work, & the delicate pictures of a primitive and unspoilt life that it produces. It brings with it the same breath & pleasure of far away skies and earths unknown and yet kindred, that one gets out of Fabre's stories of the Cevennes, or Loti among his Bretons or Emily Lawless among her Connemara Celts.* Some day I want to have my say about the peasant novel of our time -- there

[*Page 8*]

is no genre I think which has widened our world so much for us.

Please remember me affectionately to Mrs Fields.* Dorothy* sends much love to you both. She is well, dear child, & more than ever the prop of the household.

Always dear Mifs Jewett
most cordially yours
Mary A. Ward

Notes

Tressady: Ward's *Sir George Tressady* appeared in 1896, first in serial and then as a book.

Kipling: Key to Correspondents.

"Nancy": Jewett's *The Life of Nancy* appeared in 1895.

Fabre's ... Loti ... Emily Lawless: French writers Ferdinand Simon Fabre (1827-1898) and Louis

Marie-Julien Viaud (1850-1923), who published as Pierre Loti, and Irish author Emily Lawless (1845-1913). Wikipedia.

Dorothy: Dorothy Ward. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Ward, Mary Augusta (Arnold) 1851-1920. 7 letters; 1893-1904 & [n.d.]. bMS Am 1743 (228). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Robert Underwood Johnson

The Marshall House*
Wednesday [*August 1896*]*
[*Begin deleted letterhead*]
~~South Berwick.~~
~~Maine.~~
[*End deleted letterhead*]

Dear Mr. Johnson

I have read Madame Blanc's paper with unexpected delight. I find it most charming though I had a fear that it might be less interesting than some other papers of hers. I think in the main the cutting has been done most wisely though there are some parts which it seems a great pity to

[*Page 2*]

lose, ^Some of^ the anecdotes which give much lightness and brightness and most the historical allusions. It is a perfectly framed and well managed piece of work of really uncommon value; is it not?*

I suggest that much more of the opening paragraphs should be left: all the first page and the first lines of the second as I have marked, for without this it seems very inconsequent and a poor start. I think we must grant Madame Blanc these

[*Page 3*]

preliminaries! ---------- Then besides a few other bits which I have marked in the margin I think that longer passage about the gamin* is far too good to lose.

I wish that Mr. Buel* would consider pp. 34 & 35 to this end.

Why not "cut" the pictures instead of this most graphic and picturesque text? Why should there be nine pages of

[*Page 4*]

pictures to such a paper as this? It seems as if such illustrations, necessarily of a general interest in many instances, might be made use of at some other time, if, as I suppose, they relate to Paris or to costume &c.

= I am sure that half as many ^pictures^ and a little more text would be more satisfactory. But then, you may justly say that I have seen the text and not the pictures.

I am not quite certain that you wished me to send the manuscript to

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

Mr. Buel -- but perhaps you will send on this note to him with my best regard.

Yours most truly

S. O. Jewett

A thousand thanks for Sir George Tressady* which I find most noble -- a truly great story and always

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

gaining in charm as well as power in these last numbers.

Notes

Marshall House: A resort hotel in York Harbor, ME, 1871-1916.

1896: Almost certainly, this letter was composed not long before Johnson's letter to Jewett of 8 August 1896, and after Johnson gave Jewett advance copies of the August and September installments of Ward's novel, *Sir George Tressady*, currently in serial in *Century Magazine*. Jewett seems not yet to have completed reading the new material, but perhaps she wants to focus mainly upon the work she has done on Madame Blanc's essay.

Jewett refers to "About French Children," an essay by Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc, illustrated by Maurice Boutet de Monvel, which appeared in the *Century,* LII (October 1896), 803-822.

Johnson's 8 August letter seems likely to refer to Jewett's comments on Madame Blanc's essay in this letter.

is it not: This question seems to have been inserted at the end of the line in a lighter ink.

gamin: It appears that this passage was not restored.

Mr. Buel: Clarence Clough Buel (1850-1933) was a long-time assistant editor at *Century*, and the editor with Johnson of a number of books of American Civil War history.

In the New York Public Library's box 51, with this letter, is its envelope, addressed to Mr.

Johnson at The Norwood Farm. Johnson has deleted the name and address and has directed the envelope to C. C. Buel [*unrecognized word, perhaps* Esq]. He added this penciled note: "Dear CCB. Do with this as you think best. The suggestion to omit the pictures is funny. R.U.J."

Possibly Johnson believes Jewett suggestion humorous because his magazine's cover title was *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine*.

Sir George Tressady: Mrs. Humphry Ward's *Sir George Tressady* appeared in 1896. Key to Correspondents. See Jewett to Ward of 7 July and Jewett to Robert Underwood Johnson of 7 August.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the New York Public Library, Century Company records 1870-1930s [bulk 1886-1918], Series 1, General Correspondence 1870-1930, b. 51, Jewett, Sarah Orne 1889-1901.

Louise Imogen Guiney to Annie Adams Fields

[*5 August 1896*]

My dear Mrs. Fields:

Miles to the north, in a nice 'solitudinous' Maine cove, I have been thinking much of you, and of the intaglio posts of the dark veranda on Thunderbolt Hill.* The Mother of me, who had been ill again, came here for rest a month or six weeks ago; and when I saw a loophole out of an especially post-officey summer, I cut the ropes, and ran ^to her.^ It was but for a fortnight, however, and it must be over on Saturday: for there is much carpentering under way in that U.S. shop, and a new clerk is to be broken in: Christianizing the Fiji Islanders* isn't a circumstance to that! I hope you and Miss Jewett are together, and happy too, according to precedent. And it is ever a comfort, though too rare a one, to fall across your sympathetic pages in a magazine. I had wished very much to do Mr. Warner's Keats paper* while I had uninterrupted quiet here; but I find I cannot put two words of it together, simple as it would have seemed a couple of years ago; and I sometimes

[*Page 2*]

fear I shall have to abandon it. But meanwhile, willy-nilly, I have made a verse, and such as it is (printed at the nearest country press) I send you and Miss Jewett a copy. It seems stiff to me, and betrays a hand all out of practise: but I felt very deeply the loss of our Best,* which called it forth, and the exigent need of him in a sorry crisis such as weighs, I am sure, upon all our hearts. I gave twenty-five copies to Mrs. Russell: shyly enough, you may be sure, for it happens that I never met her.

'Copeyday', Fredericus et Herbertus [arnbo *?*],* spent Sunday with us, and had mushrooms and wild raspberries, and non-Sabbatical conferences with one large and cheerful pup Lillo. I am writing on the lower deck, which is all but situate in the sea: and the salt mist soaks both the paper and the 'assurances', better than Gallic, that I am ever

Yours devotedly,
Louise I. Guiney.

Ingraham Hill, South Thomaston, Maine.
August 5th 1896.

Notes

Thunderbolt Hill: The site of Fields's summer home in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts.

Christianizing the Fiji Islanders: In the late 19th century, tales of cannibalism among the Fiji islanders were widespread, supporting the idea that these people supposedly were uncivilized beyond redemption.

Mr. Warner's Keats paper: Charles Dudley Warner (See Key to Correspondents) organized *The Library of the World's Best Literature*, a 30 volume anthology. Guiney eventually contributed a critical and biographical introduction to the section on British poet, John Keats (1795-1821).

Best ... Mrs. Russell: In a letter to Fields of 7 January 1895, Guiney identified her "Best Contemporary" as the Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson, who died on 3 December 1894. In that letter, she included an early draft of her tribute sonnet to him, entitled "Amends," later published as "Valediction (R. L. S., 1894)."

However, it seems more likely that Guiney here refers to Massachusetts politician William Eustis Russell (1857- 16 July 1896), who died suddenly and unexpectedly not long before Guiney wrote this letter. Whether Guiney published a poem about him is not yet known.

In that case, Mrs. Russell could be his mother: Sarah Elizabeth Ballister (1817-1897), the wife of Charles Theodore Russell (1815- 16 January 1896), a Massachusetts politician who, like his son, served as mayor of Cambridge, MA. Perhaps more likely, Mrs. Russell could be Margaret Manning Swan (1862-1930), spouse of William E. Russell. Her second husband was Michael George Foster.

See also Guiney to Fields of 26 August 1900.

'*Copeyday', Fredericus et Herbertus*: Probably, Guiney refers to her artist and publishing friends, Frederick Holland Day (See Key to Correspondents) and Herbert Copeland (1867-1923).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James

T. Fields collection Box 25: mss FI 1611. S. O. Jewett

Sarah Orne Jewett to Robert Underwood Johnson

Manchester
Thursday Aug^{t} 7th
[*1896*]*

Dear Mr. Johnson

When I came back here a few days ago I hunted for the last number of Sir George Tressady!* but Mrs Fields had forgotten that I hadn't read them all and confessed that she had sent them back. At which I mourned! I am writing now to ask if you would be so very kind as to let me

[*Page 2*]

have the October number just over night -- It seems as if I couldn't wait until the proper time for reading it, and as if the first of October were a year away. Particularly as I have just had a very long letter from Mrs. Ward, and she thinks I have had it all and talks of it -- -- She tells me that she has done a good bit of revision -- I am so anxious lest in her anxiety she has

[*Page 3*]

re-touched the beautiful reticence of some of those great scenes, but she is a true artist and, as I firmly believe, a very great story teller. I think this story of George Tressady in the Century has made a great impression and I thank you as an editor (as well as a friend!) for printing it there. Nobody knows what a force such a story is, coming into this much vexed year of our American life,* with all its knowledge of an even more

[*Page 4*]

complex "situation" and ^of the^ civilization of London in all its deeper crises and uncertainties -- [Sometimes *corrected*] when one thinks of our own excitements, they seem like quarrels in a village, noisy and outspoken, but it is only the same problems on different grounds -- I look at my own sketches of simpler life and put them beside this complex story of London, and think many things -- with both new humility and new hope.

I was so sorry to miss your visit and Mistress Katharine's. I hear pleasant things about it, and especially of the pleasure you gave Miss King* of whom I am so fond.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

I shall hope to see you again before you leave York Harbor{.}

Sincerely and affectionately yours

Notes

1896: It is virtually certain that this letter was composed in 1896, the year that Ward's *Sir George Tressady* was published. However, in that case, Jewett has incorrectly dated her letter. In 1896, August 7 fell on Friday.

With this letter is an associated envelope, addressed to R. U. Johnson Esq^{r}, York Harbor, Maine, and cancelled on 7 August 1896. Penciled in the upper left is "Sarah Jewett." On the back of the envelope appears this note:

> If I can do anything more about Madam Blanc's paper* pray let me know. She writes me about it, and is eager to ~~keep~~ have* the ~~whole~~ ^"copy"^ ~~paper~~ returned so that she can perhaps use it by and bye, in book form, at least I so understand her.

have: Jewett has deleted at least one word and perhaps more at this point, and it is not perfectly clear what she finally intended; "have" is my best guess. The paper Jewett mentions almost certainly is "About French Children," which appeared in *Century* in October 1896. See Jewett to Fields of 30 June 1896.

Sir George Tressady: Mrs. Mary Augusta Ward's novel appeared in 1896. Marcella Maxwell, a main character, also was the subject of Ward's 1894 novel, *Marcella*. See Jewett to Ward of 7 July 1896.

American life: Jewett characterizes the current year as much vexed probably because of issues being debated for the 1896 U.S. presidential election -- a major economic depression in its third year, with populist Democrat William Jennings Bryan opposing the economic conservative, Republican William McKinley, and continuing conflict, sometimes violent, between labor and industry, including the recent Pullman Strike of 1894. *Sir George Tressady* deals with similar problems in England. Tressady is a coal-mine owner and Minister of Parliament who takes office as an opponent of organized labor, while Marcella Maxwell and her MP husband work to improve British labor conditions.

Miss King: American author Grace King (1851-1932).

This manuscript is held by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin. MS Johnson, RU Recip. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 4 ALS to Robert Underwood Johnson.

Robert Underwood Johnson to Sarah Orne Jewett

Aug 8. 1896

Dear Mifs de Jouette:

Here are the sheets of the last part, and welcome!

There is nothing more to be done about the paper of Mme. Blanc's, thank you! The parts not used are to be sent back to her -- the whole ms. if she desires it. I have asked them to pay her well. It will look charming and be a hit, I predict. It is probably all off the press by this time.

I return to the office September 1 and therefore hope that York Harbor will see you

[*Page 2*]

again during this restless month of August, during which already we have had a hysterical mixture of rain, fog, heat, wind and halcyon weather.

Yes, we had two delightful days with Mrs. Fields the memory of which we shall not soon forget. Mistress Katharine* has duly received the autograph of her beautiful poem and will thank her with another pen. Will you kindly say to her that I am still studying on the Tesla cryptogram. The telegraph operator was responsible the other day for an "s" which made "Mrs! [Buel *?*] and boys din as well as could be expected".

The lines in the July Century "I journeyed South to meet the Spring" have brought Mr. Gilder the felicitations of Mr. Aldrich and Mr. C. G. D. Roberts* both genuine poets. Gilder says if I keep on I shall make his reputation as a poet. This sort of appreciation is worth more than a dozen square-toed compliments face-to-face.

I add a "Prose Coinage Catechism".* After reading it send it to some farmer and make a note to send money.

With our love to Mrs. Fields and yourself

Faithfully yours

R. U. J.

Notes

paper of Mme. Blanc's: Johnson refers to their correspondence about Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc's "About French Children," by Th. Bentzon, illustrated by Maurice Boutet de Monvel, which appeared in *Century*, LII (October 1896), 803-822..

Katharine: Katharine McMahon was Underwood's wife.

Presumably, Johnson refers to Field's poem, "Regnum Spiritus," which appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* in August 1896.

Tesla cryptogram: It appears that Johnson refers to a scrambled telegram. Nikola Tesla (1856-1943). In the 1890s, the Serbian-American inventor Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) was developing ideas for wireless telegraphy. Wikipedia.

boys: Johnson has underlined the "s" twice.

Johnson refers to the birth announcement in July 1896 for Richard Van Wyck Buel, son of Johnson's colleague, Clarence Clough Buel (1850-1933). Wikipedia and Find a Grave.

July Century ... Gilder ... Aldrich ... Roberts: Richard Watson Gilder's "Let Fall the Ruin Propped by Europe's Hands (The Ottoman Empire.) appeared in *Century Magazine* in July 1896. For Gilder see Key to Correspondents.

Johnson quotes from his own poem, “I journeyed South to meet the Spring,” collected in *Poems* (1902).

Canadian author, Charles George Douglas Roberts (1860-1843) has been called "the father of Canadian poetry." Wikipedia.

Catechism: Probably Johnson refers to Jacob Kendrick Upton's *A Coin Catechism* (1895). The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937. 1 letter; [1896]. (118). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Olivia Howard Dunbar Torrence*

Manchester Mass[tts]
16th August [*1896*]*
[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

My dear Mifs Dunbar

Might not I suggest in answer to the question of your kind and delightful letter that you seem to have already found Dunnet Landing!* At least if that suggestion does not satisfy you I fear that I have no other answer to give -- I have often sailed by your Ocean Point,* you

[*Page 2*]

see, from Mouse Island up the bay, where I love dearly to go in July when one can have the little green field and shady fir woods pretty nearly to oneself. I know the sea-faring town of St George too, farther east, with its many villages, but I did not go there to know it well until The Pointed Firs

was well under weigh as a book of stories. You can hardly persuade me now that somewhere between

[*Page 3*]

Booth bay and Penobscot bay there is not a place so like Dunnet Landing that this* writer would ~~not~~ feel at once at home there -- you have already guessed as much; but one makes a map in ones head, sometimes, with perfect freedom, not like the real one.*

Your letter sounds like a happy holiday, and I wish you more of it! I thank you for the pleasure that your letter brought: I cannot help wishing that I may

[*Page 4*]

see you some day to thank you as I cannot thank you in this hurried answer. With my best thanks and greetings to all your company I beg you to believe me

Yours most sincerely
Sarah Orne Jewett

Notes

Torrence: Olivia Howard Dunbar Torrence (1873-1953) was an American author, best remembered for her ghost stories. In 1914, she married American poet, Ridgely Torrence (1874-1950).

1896: This date is speculative. This letter could have been composed in any of several years between 1896 and 1908. 1896 is the earliest possible date, for during early months of that year, Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* appeared in serial in the *Atlantic Monthly*. The completed book was published in the autumn of 1896. On August 16 of 1896, Jewett was staying with Annie Adams Fields at Manchester by the Sea, MA.

Dunnet Landing: Jewett refers to the setting of her 1896 book, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.

Ocean Point: This area is southeast of Boothbay Harbor, ME, across Linekin Bay.

this: Jewett seems to have written "thit," though clearly she intended "this."

not like the real one: Jewett may have inserted this phrase after beginning the next paragraph.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Ridgely Torrence Papers C0172, Series 3: Papers of Persons Other Than Ridgely Torrence, 1837-1953. 36 boxes. Subseries 3B: Olivia Dunbar Torrence, 1894-1952. 15 boxes, miscellaneous correspondence "J", 1937-1952. 1 box. Jewett, Sarah Orne, undated. 1 folder.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

Manchester
18 August
[*1896*]*

My dear Loulie

Thank you so much (and thank Miss Brockhaus)* for this nice long letter. I am so sorry that you should have had such a bad time with your eyes, but if it sets you right for a long time to come it may not after all be lost time. I am truly sorry that sketching isn't one of the things with [which *corrected*] you can amuse yourself in this seclusion! but

[*Page 2*]

that would be asking too much from a kind oculist ! ! It seems so much easier [than *corrected*] reading or any minute work, but I suppose nothing is really a greater strain, from the nature of its exactness. I hope that you will come home well mended in every way and that you and Ellis* are keeping cheerful company in France at this moment --

I have been going on quietly. After my visit to Mrs. Cabot* I was at home except for a few days at the

[*Page 3*]

mountains -- at my friend Mrs. Merrimans* at North Conway -- where among other great pleasures I had a perfectly delicious day fishing up Wild Cat Brook with noble results of trout and the joys of solitude. I look back to a certain three hours when I was all alone with a feeling of rest and of [true *?*] enchantment.

= Then after a day or two at home I came here and it has been very pleasant -- a much less hurried and flurried summer than one sometimes gets on the shore. You will know how I enjoy seeing Mrs.

[*Page 4*]

Howe* again, and we have had a [visit *corrected*] from our dear friend Miss Garrett of whom we are both so fond, A. F. and I, and the Wolcotts have been here, the Governor and Mrs. Edith and dear little Oliver, who all gave us much satisfaction, each in their own way. Last week I went up to Ashfleld for two days to the Nortons with Mrs. Whitman for company and we had a most dear and delightful time in spite of the great heat which has put a bar to much wayfaring

[*Page 5*]

inland and even seaward. I seldom have known so hot a week on the shore here.

Mrs. Cabot is very well. I have not seen her for nearly two weeks when we went to dine with the Trimbles* from whom she had a visit of a round fortnight. "Plummy" is there now with The Baby and today she gives a famous luncheon. I never have told you of a delightful luncheon at your aunties while I was staying at Mrs. Cabot's

[*Page 6*]

& which I enjoyed very much. Your Aunt Susie looked thinner (you know I had not seen her in a long time) but she seemed very bright and altogether in good spirits. Miss Huntington* was there.

I am hurried very much now with getting an end written to the Pointed Firs* papers which are to make a little book of themselves this autumn. I shall do very little to the sketches as they stand but speak of my getting away

[*Page 7*]

and add some brief chapters.[5] I like to think that much of it will be new to you. I have done very little work this summer though I had such great plans. October and November must make up!

I do not know that there is anything more to write, Loulie dear, except to send you Mrs. Fields love and mine and to say that we keep a welcome all ready for you. Oh yes, Mrs. Fields was much troubled

[*Page 8*]

about your not receiving her note in answer to the little package -- she was most eager that you should know how much she cared for what you sent her and sent it down by a special messenger to be sure that you had it before you left home.

Yours most affectionately
S. O. J.

Notes

1896: Jewett says she is completing *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896) for book publication in the fall, placing this letter in 1896.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Miss L. L. Dresel, first cancelled in Boston on 18 August 1896, sent first to "Care of Messrs. Brown", Bankers, in London (cancelled on 28 August 1896) and then forwarded to "Care of Professor Seegen" (cancelled in Alt-Ausee, Austria, on 31 August 1896).

Brockhaus: Marianne Theresia Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Ellis: Louisa's brother. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

Merriman: Helen Bigelow Merriman. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Howe: Alice Greenwood (Mrs. George Dudley) Howe, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Annie Adams Fields, Charles Eliot Norton, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Richard Cary has identified Roger Wolcott (1847-1900), governor of Massachusetts in 1896-1898, who married Edith, daughter of the American historian William Hickling Prescott.

Trimbles ... "Plummy" is there now with The Baby ... Your Aunt Susie: The identity of the Trimbles is as yet unknown. Merritt Trimble (1824-1903), a New York banker, and his wife, Mary Sutton Underhill (1826-1908), were acquaintances of Annie Adams Fields.

"Plummy" and the baby remain unknown.

"Aunt Susie" almost certainly was Susan Gilman King, who was the younger sister of Caroline Howard King (see Correspondents). Both were sisters of Dresel's grandmother, Louisa King Loring.

Huntington: Possibly A. O. Huntington to whom Jewett wrote on April 15, 1895. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 -- Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel, 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Robert Underwood Johnson

Manchester
Tuesday
[*18 August 1896*]*
[*Begin Letterhead*]
South Berwick. Maine.
[*End Letterhead*]

My dear friend

I am sadly ashamed to have kept this advance copy* so long! I have been at Ashfield for a few days and I forgot to send it back as I meant to do last Thursday without fail{.}

[*Page 2*]

It turns up on my desk with a reproachful countenance. Thank you so much for sending it to me. I enjoyed it even more than I expected, which is as much as can possibly be said.

This will be the best of days at York. I know such weather well there.

With best thanks and remembrances.

Yours ever sincerely,
S. O. Jewett

[*Page 3*]

You couldn't do better than to print Mr. Norton's address* at the dedication of a tablet to G. W. Curtis!* It was most beautiful and I say it who heard it at Ashfield last week. I wish you had been there.

Notes

1896: Richard Cary assigned the letter this date. His rationale for the year seems clear in the notes below, and his inference of the 18 August date derives mainly from noting the date of the Charles Eliot Norton address.

advance copy: See Johnson to Jewett of 8 August 1896. The advance copy Jewett is returning is the October final installment of Mrs. Humphry Ward's *Sir George Tressady*.

Norton's address: Charles Eliot Norton. Key to Correspondents. Cary notes “Johnson did not respond to Miss Jewett's suggestion but the address received publication in the Springfield (Mass.) *Daily Republican,* August 13, 1896, and in Norton's privately printed *Memorials to Two Friends, James Russell Lowell: 1819-1891, George William Curtis: 1824-1892* (New York, 1902).”

Curtis: George William Curtis, key to Correspondents. Cary notes that Curtis had a summer home near the Nortons in Ashfield, Massachusetts; “In the Ashfield Town Hall is a bronze tablet to his memory. The installation ceremony was held on Wednesday, August 12, 1896.”

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Alexander R. McHenry, Jr. to Benjamin Orne

[*Begin letterhead*]
A. R. McHenry, Jr.*
General Agent for
Davies & Thomas, Co.
Foundry and Machine Works,
Catasauqua, PA.

New York.
Room 1110.
Havemeyer Building,
Cortlandt St. New York.
[*End letterhead*]

August 19th, 1896.

Mr. Benjamin Orne,
29 Broadway, N. Y.

Dear Ben:--

When I was in South Berwick a few days ago, Mary [Jewitt *so spelled*] told me she had been obliged to take some land near Duluth for a mortgage she held. Knowing you are interested there I thought it might be possible for you to give me the value of this land. It is located, as I understand, at about 9 miles from the city of Duluth* and about a mile and a half from the water front. The description is as follows.

S. W. quarter of N. W. quarter of Section 4 Township 47 North of Range 15, West of Principal Meridian.

N. W. quarter of N. W. quarter of Section 4 Township 47 North of Range 15, West of Principal Meridian.

Any information you can give me in regard to the same will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
A. R. McHenry, Jr.

[*Handwritten addition at the bottom of the typescript*]

Dear Sam,*

Can you get the information asked for above. If so please do so at your convenience

[*unrecognized word*] yours
Rude

Aug 24, 96.

Notes

A. R. McHenry, Jr.: Alexander R. McHenry (1849-1899) was a cousin of the Jewett sisters, residing in Philadelphia, PA. His family exchanged regular visits with the Jewett family in South Berwick.

Benjamin Orne has not yet been identified, but a promising candidate is Benjamin Orne (1845-1912), son of James H. Orne, "a prominent carpet merchant," who is buried in Philadelphia with Roxalene Orne McHenry, mother of A.R. McHenry, Jr.

See T. F. Upham to Mary Rice Jewett of 2 July 1895, for possibly related information. While that letter refers to buildings and this letter to land, these properties all are located near Duluth, MN.

Duluth: The location of this land is confusing. Haupt to McHenry of 1 December 1896 places it near Ironton, MN, but that seems unlikely, as that is far from the St. Louis River, which empties into Lake Superior at Duluth, MN. Nicholas Roehrdanz of Duluth, MN, following the surveyor description given in this letter, places the land in Wisconsin, about 1.5 mi east of the border with Minnesota,

southwest of Superior, WI and southeast of Jay Cooke State Park. This location is about 4.5 mi south of the St Louis River.

Sam: Almost certainly Samuel B. Haupt. See below his letter of 1 December 1896 to A. R. McHenry.

This typed letter is held by Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Correspondence: individual recipients; Other correspondence; unidentified, undated; includes fragments, Box 13, Folder 62.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday morning
[*1896*]*

Dear Annie

Owing to a mistake my letters didn't get posted yesterday morning -- you must have thought that the foundations [of *looks like* or] friendship were shaking! I dont know when a letter can have missed before, but when you know that it was all written and ready, you wont mind so much!

-- I hurried over to the other house* and had a tired dragging morning but a better afternoon, and I was so tired that I went to bed soon after eight. Monday

[*Page 2*]

is apt to be a hard day: I suppose because we dont rest enough on Sunday! ----- As for this letter of Thérèse's, I should just send it on to Mr. Welsh* and let the matter go. You were tired when you read it -- as I was -- but the second time I looked it over it came quite simply plain, that she cant bear to lose the money and wants to negotiate further, poor thing -- so we must let her go on in her own way and then it will come out right. One language is far better for business than two. And after

[*Page 3*]

this we must tell her that a third person can only complicate such matters. She forgets = besides I think at one time she may feel prosperous, and decide things on that basis and then a pinch of ^money^ anxiety comes -- I fear it is almost always there. Dont worry about it = it is the same Thérèse that we have always known and been really fond of! and I dont believe she meant to be naughty, however naughty she may appear. She is a French person, our dear friend. But I fear I shall not help matters by writing these things. I do think that Thérèse

[*Page 4*]

laid special stress on the subject! but the pay seemed small ^to us^ for what she was called upon to do -- and we may have erred!!*

It is a gray brooding day as you say sometimes = the bright sun was wonderful yesterday -- It is after breakfast now and half past eight, and my dear (Fuffy) will be minding her plants and reading her letters. I do hope that you are well dear, and not too tired. How strange about those Wordsworth letters!* -- But what a plum for Mrs. Cabot!* I should think that you would have to go to Wednesday night dinner while it is still fresh in your mind!!

With dearest love

Pinny

Notes

1896: This date is a guess, supported mainly by the circumstance that Jewett and Fields were especially involved in helping Madame Blanc publish her American materials in the U.S. during the 1894-6 period.

Someone, probably Annie Fields, has placed penciled parentheses around "Annie" and then deleted this name in the greeting.

In this letter, Jewett several times places an "=" where she might otherwise place a semi-colon or more likely an m-dash. When it looks like an "=," I have so rendered it.

other house: After 1887, when Mary and Sarah Jewett moved into their Uncle William's home, now the Sarah Orne Jewett House, the other house probably was their former residence, next door, where the sisters had lived before 1887. In 1896, their widowed sister, Carrie Jewett Eastman, and her son, Theodore, would have resided there, though Theodore was away at school.

Mr. Welsh: Mr. Welsh has not yet been identified, though he appears to be associated with a publisher or a magazine. Those of Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc's non-fiction publications in the United States, with which Jewett and Fields are known to be associated, all appeared in 1894-6, in *Scribner's*, *Century Magazine* and *The Forum*. Her main non-fiction book during this time was *The Condition of Women in the United States* (Roberts Brothers, 1896).

and we ... erred!!: These five words appear to have been inserted in space at the end of the paragraph. Jewett may have deleted "and."

Wordsworth letters: British poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850). The meaning of Jewett's reference to an oddity about Wordsworth letters somehow connected with Mrs. Cabot is not yet known.

Mrs. Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett,

Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman

Monday Morning
[*August 1896*]*

Dear Carrie

The weather promises much fairer than I feared and I dont doubt we shall make a good run -- I hope Theodore will have a good time -- it will be a pretty experience for a person. Mrs. Fields & I are going to Mr. Higginsons* to lunch this noon and I hope to find him here when I get back. I do so hope that we shant

[*Page 2*]

strike across to Portland way out! -- I desire to pass Boon Island!!* and I hope that I may feel to enjoy that and all other passing sights.

We had a quiet day yesterday. In the morning we went down into the woods a while and it rained in the afternoon [and *?*] we went over to Mrs. Howes* to dine at night and had a very pretty time. Today I am going to count my spare minutes

[*Page 3*]

and get on with some copying as best I can -- It is funny -- When I first heard about Mr. Merriman* and that he was so able & had evidently stayed just about where he was! I said to myself that he had some clog or other upon his life -- and I wondered if he had any sort of wife to take hold with him.

Evidently she isn't able ("an able boat")* And I am so sorry because though Mrs. [Greenlaw *?*]* appears well, she never has been minister's wife to the Academy.*

[*Page 4*]

Perhaps she will now. What does John* think of them?

I do hope that I can either come home by rail from the v'yg'e or be set ashore at Portland or Portsmouth to come home for a day or two. Next week I shall be very much taken up here, but I count on getting home to see a sister and do some things first.

I took in Mary Wilkinson the full size. You must have known it would be so -- I hope Emerson coped with her case, and I should like to see her & Columby* on the water. They would both sit aft to be near together and the bow of the boat would be all out of water.

[*Up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

I can picture it. Goodbye with much love

from Sarah.

With love to [Jimson *?*],* and John and all.

Notes

August 1896: This date is uncertain, based on Elizabeth Silverthorne's statement that in August 1896, after Jewett completed *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, she and her nephew, Theodore, took a cruise together along the coast of Maine. In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Silverthorne quotes Jewett saying that she plans to complete her book by 8 August, and then she will "take a fresh look" at the setting she used for her novel (p. 164). See Jewett to Lilian Aldrich of Thursday August 1896.

Mr. Higginsons: Probably this is Henry Lee Higginson. See Ida Agassiz Higginson in Key to Correspondents.

Boon Island: It seems likely that Jewett refers to Boon Island, off the coast of southern Maine, near Cape Neddick. It would be interesting because it is the site of the tallest lighthouse in New England (1855).

The letter seems to imply that Jewett is writing from Annie Fields's at Manchester-by-the-Sea, and that she and Theodore, plan a short sail -- presumably with friends owning a yacht -- from there toward Portland, ME.

Mrs. Howes: Probably this is Alice Greenwood Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Merriman: Jewett corresponded with Helen B. Merriman, wife of Rev. Daniel Merriman, but this does not seem likely to be the Mr. Merriman she refers to in this letter.

able boat: Presumably the phrase is in quotation marks to place it in the context of boating terms, where an able boat is one that is especially seaworthy.

Greenlaw ... wife to the Academy: The transcription of "Greenlaw" is uncertain. It also is unclear to which academy Jewett refers. Ordinarily, one would assume she speaks of the Berwick Academy in South Berwick, ME, but the names "Merriman" and "Greenlaw" have has yet no known connection with the administration of the Berwick Academy. A second likely possibility is the Phillips Exeter Academy, but again, there is no known likely relationship.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Wilkinson .. Emerson ... Columby: These people remain unidentified, and the meaning of this passage remains obscure. The best-known

"Columby" in the South Berwick area during Jewett's lifetime was Columbia Warren (1817-1908), who appears as a main character in Gladys Hasty Carroll's (1804-1899) *Dunnybrook*.

Jimson: This transcription is uncertain, though a Jimson is mentioned in Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett and Carrie Jewett Eastman, 12 July 1894, this person has not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England in Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Augusta Jewett Eastman, Jewett Family Papers: MS014.01.01.04.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Jewett Eastman

Thursday
[*August 1896*]*

Dear Carrie

I must put in this brief note -- there is not any sign of clearing weather but we came ashore in the morning and have after a little drive up the coast to the harbor store we have spent the day at Mrs. Richardsons.* And I am going to sleep ashore tonight as it is wet for womenfolks getting back to the yacht --

[*Page 2*]

We meant to sail for home this morning but there was a white fog. Mrs. Aldrich was going to be put off at Portland with me and we were going to stop over at home! but I dont know how it will be now. I dare say we shall go right to Boston if it is smooth enough -- It is hard to find out

[*Page 3*]

about plans when you are yachting. I have seldom seen Mr. T. Stubs show such unaffected signs of enjoyment, & he has learned much that pleases him about [ginnets *?*]* and kinds of knots, & is so busy all the time. We went over he & I, to Martinsville* yesterday but I didn't see Mrs. [Bachelder *?*] *-- she

[*Page 4*]

had gone berrying Carrie.

We were so glad to get your nice letter just now -- & one from Mary, but I am disappointed that she [would get none this week *?*] not until Monday when [*deleted word between lines*.] I shall have to be back at Manchester.* In haste with much love

Sarah --

& love to Susy.*

Notes

August 1896: This date is uncertain. This letter seems to follow up on the above letter probably from August 1896, in that it recounts part of a trip Jewett and her nephew made along the Maine coast, which Elizabeth Silverthorne in *Sarah Orne Jewett* places in August 1896 (p. 164).

Mrs. Richardsons: According to George Carey's "The Rise and Fall of Elmore," "William Richardson, known to his intimates as “Will Dear ... had made a small fortune when he invented the clothing snap, the popular forerunner of the zipper, and with some of his money he built Seawoods, a 13-room house that faced the ocean [near Tenants Harbor, ME]. Richardson’s sister-in-law married Thomas Bailey Aldrich, the editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, and soon his large rambling cottage, The Crags just to the north of Seawoods, was drawing to Elmore such literary luminaries as Mark Twain and Sarah Orne Jewett."

ginnets: This transcription is uncertain. "Gennit" refers to cordage, particularly binding pieces of wood together with cord.

Martinsville: Martinsville, ME, a favorite summer vacation spot for Jewett, became the setting for *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

Mrs. Bachelder: Paula Blanchard in *Sarah Orne Jewett*, identifies Mrs. Rozilla Trussel Harris Batchelder (1837-1922), wife of Nathan Batchelder (1828-1900), a favorite friend in Tenants Harbor, ME (pp. 275-6). The spelling of names varies in different sources; these spellings are from "Find-a-Grave."

Manchester: Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, where Fields had her summer home.

Susy: It seems likely that this is Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1954). Her mother was named Sarah Orne Jewett (1820-1864), as was a sister who died in infancy (1864-5). See Pirsig, "The Jewetts of Portland Street" (2004).

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England in Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Augusta Jewett Eastman, Jewett Family Papers: MS014.01.01.04.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

York Harbor Maine
Tuesday [*August 1896*]*
[*Begin apparently deleted letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End apparently deleted letterhead*]

Dear Lilian

I got home all right after a long day's journey, but I enjoyed it very much {,} especially the yacht voyage to Rockland -- We bounced about finely before we got to White Head.* I am afraid that

Talbot* had a rainy evening for his pleasuring. It was such a pleasure to see something of him as I have not done before for so long.

[*Page 2*]

I wish that he could stop here some time, ~~with~~ on his eastward journeys; it is very pleasant and gay for all the young people and I am sure that he would find many friends. I did not have much time to look about me in Berwick as we came on here as soon as possible, but you may be sure that I was full of stories about Monhegan and my lovely visit to the

[*Page 3*]

Crags.* You cant think how much I enjoyed it or how glad I am to have seen you and dear T.B. again. I dont know when I have had four days of such real pleasure.

I suppose that A.F. is on her way to Bar Harbor now and I shall end this note to begin one to her.

With dear love to you both

Always your affectionate
S. O. J.

Notes

August 1896: This speculative date is based upon the fact that Jewett could not have visited the Crags until 1895 or later and that there is evidence that Jewett did make a short yachting visit to the Tenants Harbor, ME area in August of 1896, presumably after putting the finishing touches on *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, which came out later in the year. See Elizabeth Silverthorne, *Sarah Orne Jewett* (p. 164).

White Head: Presumably, Jewett refers to Whitehead Island, along the northeastern coast of Maine, about 10 miles by air south of Rockland, ME.

Talbot: The Aldriches' twin sons, Talbot and Charles were born in 1868.

the Crags: In *Crowding Memories*, Lilian Aldrich says the Crags, their summer place in Tenants Harbor, ME, was built in the summer of 1893 (p. 270).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*September 1896*]*

My darling, I think I know just how the days have felt to you since your dear Aunt, with her memories, went away, & there came that little strange change over the landscape of one's life. The sun a little lower.

Well! -- one says --

[*Page 2*]

and proceeds to walk on . . .

--- I am glad you are waiting a little at the old house in [*unrecognized word*] of M<u>rs</u> Todd* -- that will be good for you and for us: and unless you come back again I shall [fire *?*] [*unrecognized word*] all the [*unrecognized word*] and [others *?*] left to you. I go to Helen* for [*two deleted words*] one night on the 16<u>th</u>, which is all my docket at present -- but there be things ahead, as always unless one is not intending to have guests!

[*Page 3*]

Dear I want to thank you for liking to have the picture. It is one of the two I made that [succeeds *?*] where we had looked together at the scene -- & I thought at first I <u>must</u> keep it. Then I suddenly saw that I wanted you to have it even more. So it is yours, and his, [*two unrecognized words*].

<u>SW</u>

Notes

September 1896: This date is probable because one of Jewett's favorite aunts, Lucretia Fisk Perry died on 5 September 1896. At this time, Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* had just completed its serial appearance in *Atlantic Monthly* and was soon to be issued as a book. The other two aunts to whom Jewett was closest died in 1904, the same year that Whitman died.

Todd: Almira Todd is a main character in Jewett's 1896 novel, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* and in four stories using the same setting.

Helen: Probably this is Helen Bigelow Merriman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item 234.

Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*10 September 1896*]*

La Ferté-Sous-Jouarre 10 September

I am writing to you today, dear Sarah; please share the news with Annie, as, no doubt, she has already told you all that she got from me. I have spent rather a sad summer in Nivernais, except for a few days when I ran away to the mountains of Auvergne, where my nephew* manages a factory. There they are happy, living a simple life, with

great affection for each other. I've never told you the details of this marriage, which I'm sure is of interest to you.

[*Page 2*]

You know my nephew fell in love with a superior person, very much like your young American women who are social activists and philanthropists. Without discouraging him, she made him wait 3 years, and then she told him that marriage definitely was not her destiny, that she was going to start building a hospital on her land in the Dauphiné.* And that winter, she did not return to Paris. How the young man despaired. He has been healed by a woman so simple, so tender, as old-fashioned as the other was complicated and modern, the daughter of one of my childhood friends, who, in the past, having been quite attracted to the aunt,

[*Page 3*]

was delighted to see this old flame reignited in the form of her nephew's attraction to his daughter. Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Sears* met M. de Refuge* at my place and were struck by his knowledge, his good nature, and everything that makes him a likeable and distinguished person. He has studied Greek inscriptions for 55 years, and he has the most interesting collection of autographs in France, after that of the Duke d'Aumale, including autographs of all the members of the Institute since Richelieu, its founder, and including Napoleon Bonaparte,* and not just insignificant fragments of letters,

[*Page 4*]

but precious manuscripts, all of them. His wife is the first cousin of Henri Regnault* and of his poor feeble-minded sister. Genius lives with the family, M. de Refuge being his tutor. The children are the direct heirs of his large fortune, but currently they have only modest dowries, thanks to his collections, to the elegance of his pretty suburban estate, and to certain habits of paternal prodigality. My niece, Thérèse, despite her more than comfortable upbringing, accommodates herself marvelously to the privation and the isolation of her life in a [*unrecognized word*] facing the Puy-de-Dôme, which, actually, is the most beautiful panorama imaginable,

[*Page 5*]

without neighbors, without distractions, and with the obligation to keep a close eye on the barnyard and the vegetable garden so as not to starve to death, all resources being very far away. With her youth and beauty, she appears a little princess in exile, but an exile that delights her, and her home, however small, is arranged with infinite taste. In the spring a baby will complete their happiness, and in the meantime they will come to Paris in December for the wedding of the second daughter of M. de Refuge with a M. Conseil, this one multiple times a millionaire, but it is striking how fortunate Thérèse continues to think she is, despite the inequity of the two sisters' future financial fortunes.

[*Page 6*]

These dear children show me that marriage is not always terrible, as I would be tempted to believe, given the examples of my own marriage and my son's.

Édouard* returned from a new and most interesting trip to Russia, full of distinctions there, well regarded at court and in scientific circles, having received many decorations. His health is not bad, either, but he despairs more than ever { over his marriage }, and the separation seems inevitable to me, unless there is a miracle. At the moment, I have with me my two oldest grandchildren, so precious to me, and my daughter-in-law is recovering very quickly

[*Page 7*]

at the large and <u>dismal</u> château de St. Loup, which they had rented for a year with the intention of buying it, and then my son decided absolutely on something more suitable in the neighborhood on the banks of the Loire. Next week my daughter-in-law will come with the baby to my apartment in Paris, which I leave to her for a month, and then her husband comes to stay alone in his. You can see that <u>all is going wrong</u>, and I need not say that my heart is broken. -- Here the house is becoming more and more comfortable. There are two rooms for you and for Annie, where you must stay for a very long time,

[*Page 8*]

as long as the place does not become dull for you. Did I tell you of the week I received a delegation from Galesburg { Knox } College in the persons of Professor Hurd,* his daughter, and another lady? They were most interested in the old Merovingian France of my neighborhood. I think I will reside less and less in Paris. I will go in for my business affairs, but the situation there is uncomfortable -- with my estranged children and the friendly relations between me and M. Blanc, which appears <u>less odd</u> here. You understand the delicate nuances of this situation, don't you? I embrace you very tenderly, and I await your latest writings. Greetings to your sisters, whom I hope to see again next year, and to Mr. Theodore*

[*Cross-written on page 8*]

who must be a man today! --- And so Mr. Doe* is married! He sent me a card. I embrace you again
ThB

Notes

1896: The main supporting evidence for this date is the anticipated spring birth of Blanc's niece, Alice, which took place in 1897. See notes below.

nephew: In 1896, Blanc's nephew, Frédéric Louis de Solms, married Thérèse Gourio du Refuge (born c. 1872); their daughter was Alice (1897-). See her entry in Key to Correspondents.

Dauphiné: The Dauphiné is a former province in Southeastern France, replaced approximately by the present departments of Isère, Drôme and Hautes-Alpes. The Dauphiné was originally the Dauphiné of Viennois. Wikipedia.

Mrs. Sears: According to Wikipedia, Sarah Choate Sears (1858-1935), was an influential Boston artist, patron and collector, the wife of Boston realtor J. Montgomery Sears. She was an award-winning artist who exhibited internationally, working in painting, photography, metals and textiles.

M. de Refuge: Geneanet and Man8rove websites together, provide information identifying members of the Gourio du Refuge family mentioned in this letter.

Thérèse Gourio du Refuge was the daughter of Marie Georges Edgard Gourio du Refuge (1841-1901). His wife was Amélie Victorine Laudin (1841-1900). Ancestry.com identifies a daughter, Berthe Amélie Alexandrine Gourio de Refuge, who married Edmond Maurice Xavier Conseil, but gives no date. The rest of the du Refuge children are named in document 14160 related to settling their parents' estate that appears in *Recueil général de l'enregistrement et du notariat* Volume 59, available from Google Books.

Mme. du Refuge's mother was Thérèse Adélaïde Regnault (1809 -). Her brother, physician Henri Victor Regnault (1810-1878), was the father of the painter, Alexandre Georges Henri Regnault (1843-1871). See Wikipedia for Alexandre Henri Regnault.

Duke d'Aumale ... the Institute ... Richelieu ... Napoleon Bonaparte:

Henri d'Orléans, Duke of Aumale (1822-1897) was a bibliophile, with a large collection of antique books and manuscripts. He owned the important medieval book, *Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry*. Wikipedia.

According to Wikipedia, Armand Jean du Plessis, Duke of Richelieu (1585-1642), known as Cardinal Richelieu, was a French clergyman and government official. He founded the Académie Française in 1635. Its chief responsibility is publishing the official dictionary of the French language. After the Academie was suppressed during the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) restored it in 1796 as the Institute of France.

Professor Hurd: Albert Hurd (1823-1906), Professor of Natural Sciences at Knox College in Galesburg, IL

Édouard: For Blanc's son, see her entry in Key to Correspondents. Blanc implies here that her son and his wife had three children in three years. This third child has not yet been identified further.

M. Blanc: Mme. Blanc's estranged husband. See her entry in Key to Correspondents. Though they were estranged, they seem to have developed a friendship in their later years, and he stayed with her often when she was in the country, where he enjoyed hunting.

Theodore: Theodore Eastman turned 17 on 4 August 1896. It is not clear why Blanc says he would be "a man today."

Mr. Doe: Presumably, this is the son of Jewett's South Berwick area friend, Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents. Her two surviving sons were Perley (1868-1922) who married Myrtle Porter (1873-1959) in 1917, and Haven (1870-1946) who married Mora Belle Hubbard (1875-1963) in 1895. Almost certainly, then, Blanc refers to Haven Doe's marriage.

This letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA: b MS Am 1743, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, Blanc, Thérèse (de Solms) 1840-1907. 10 letters; 1892-1906 & [n.d.], 1892-1906, Identifier: (23).

Transcription

La Ferté-Sous-Jouarre 10 9bre
C'est à vous que j'écris aujourd'hui,
chère Sarah, en vous
priant de communiquer
les nouvelles à Annie
comme sans doute elle
vous a donné déjà toutes
celles qu'elle a reçu de
moi. -- J'ai passé un
été assez triste au Nivernais
sauf quelques jours de fugue
jusque dans les montagnes
d'Auvergne où se trouve
l'usine dont mon neveu
est directeur. Là on est
heureux sans trop grandes
exigences et avec une
grande tendresse l'un pour
l'autre. Je ne vous ai
jamais donné de détails

sur ce mariage qui vous
a pourtant intéresées j'en suis sûre.

[*Page 2*]

Vous savez que mon neveu
s'était épris d'une personne ^supérieure^
aussi semblable que
[posfible *so written*] à vos jeunes américaines
sociologues et philanthropes{.}
Sans le décourager elle
l'a fait attendre 3 ans, puis
lui a déclaré que le mariage
décidément n'était pas son
fait, qu'elle allait se mettre
à bâtir un hôpital sur ses
terres du Dauphiné. Et elle
n'est pas revenue cet hiver-là
à Paris. Désespoir de ce
jeune homme. Il en a été
guéri par une personne
aussi simple, aussi tendre,
aussi old-fashioned que
l'autre était compliquée
et moderne, la fille d'un
de mes amis de jeunesse, qui
ayant eu jadis une inclination
assez vive pour la tante a été

[*Page 3*]

ravi de voir cette vieille flamme se réveiller
chez ce neveu au profit de sa fille. Mmes
Whitman et Sears ont vu M. du Refuge chez
moi et ont été frappées de son savoir, de
la bonhommie, de tout ce qui fait de lui
un homme ^sympathique et ^ distingué. Il
s'occupé à 55 ans
d'épigraphie grecque comme un étudiant
et a la plus curieuse collection d'autographes
qui soit en France après celle du duc
d'Aumale, des autographes de tous les
membres de l'Institut depuis Richelieu
son fondateur, Bonaparte compris, et
non pas des bouts de lettres insignifiants{,}

[*Page 4*]

de précieux manuscrits, sans
exception. Sa femme est la
cousin germaine de Henri
Regnault et la pauvre soeur
à demi idiote de cet homme{.}
Le génie vit dans la famille
du Refuge, M. du Refuge étant
son tuteur. Les enfants sont
les héritiers directs de sa fortune
considérable, mais dans le
présent elles n'ont que des
dots modestes grâce aux collections,
à l'élégance du joli hôtel d'Auteuil
et à de certains habitudes de
prodigalité paternelles. Ma
nièce Thérèse, quoique luxurieusement
élevée s'accommode à
merveille de la rudesse et
le l'isolement de son
existence dans une [*unrecognized word*]
en face du Puy-de-Dôme
qui du reste est bien ce
plus beau panorama
qu'on puisse imaginer

[*Page 5*]

sans voisins, sans distractions
et ^avec^ l'obligation de surveiller
de près basse-cour et
potager pour ne pas mourir
et faim toutes les ressources
étant fort éloignées. Avec sa
jeunesse et sa beauté elle
a l'air d'une petite princesse
en exil, mais un exil qui
la ravit et son home
si petit qu'il soit est
arrangé avec un goût
infini -- Au printemps un
petit enfant mettra le
comble à leur bonheur et
en attendant ils viendront
à Paris en Décembre pour
le mariage de la seconde
fille de M. du Refuge avec
un M. Conseil plurisériés fois
millionnaire celui-là mais il
faut voir comme Thérèse { se }
trouve privilégiée, malgré
l'inégalité de fortune future avec ^sa soeur.^

[*Page 6*]

Ces chers enfants me prouvent
que le mariage n'est pas
toujours chose affreuse
comme je serais autrement
tentée de le croire par mon propre
exemple et celui
de mon fils.
Édouard est revenu de
Russie après un nouveau
voyage des plus intéressants
comblé de distinctions, là-bas,
bien vu à la cour
et dans les cercles scientifiques,
[chamarré *?*] de décorations.
Sa santé n'est pas mauvaise
non plus, mais il est plus
désespéré que jamais et
la séparation me paraît
inévitable à moins d'un
miracle. J'ai chez moi en
ce moment mes deux petits
enfants aînés qui sont
des bijoux et ma belle-

fille se remet très vite

[*Page 7*]

dans ce grand et dismal
château de S^{t} Loup qu'ils avaient
loué pour un an avec l'intention
de l'acheter, puis mon fils a
jeté son dévolu sur quelque chose
de plus habitable dans le voisinage
au bord de la Loire. -- La
semaine prochaine ma
belle-fille viendra avec le
baby dans mon appartement
de Paris que je lui laisse
pour un mois, puis que
son mari vient rester seul
dans le sien. Vous voyez
que tout va mal et je
n'ai pas besoin de
vous dire que j'ai le
coeur déchiré. -- Ici
la maison est de plus
en plus confortable.
Il y a deux chambres
pour vous et pour Annie
où il faudra rester très longtemps

[*Page 8*]

tant que vous ne vous ennuiez
pas. Vous ai-je dit que
j'avais reçu pendant une
semaine Galesburg collège
en la personne du prof.
Hurd, de sa fille et d'une
autre dame? Ils ont trouvé
cette vieille France mérovingienne
qui m'entoure des plus
intéressantes. --- De moins
en moins, je crois, j'habiterai
Paris. J'irai pour mes
affaires, -- mais la situation
y est gênante -- avec mes
enfants désunis et les relations
d'amitié entre moi et M.
Blanc qui le sent ici
beaucoup moins étranger.
Ce sont n'est-ce pas des
délicatesses que vous sentez?
Je vous embrasse avec une
grande tendresse et j'attends
vos derniers ouvrages. Amitiés
à vos soeurs que j'espère revoir
l'an prochaine et à M. Theodore

[Cross-written on page 8]

qui doit être un homme aujourd'hui! --- Et M. Doe
est donc marié! Il m'a envoyé une carte. Je vous
embrasse
encore ThB

Sarah Orne Jewett to Rose Lamb

26 Sept --
[*1896*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick, Maine
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Rose

I am going to send you the new edition of Mrs. Thaxter's poems* because you will find words in the preface that belong to us both -- I hope you will care about this new book. The prose will not be

[*Page 2*]

republished this year --

I wonder if you are at home again -- if you are and should be going past the Thorndike, do stop and see my little Sister Eastman who is going to be there after Monday -- Theodore is going to be near ~~you~~ ^me^ in Brimmer St. and go to Mr. Noble's school.*

[*Page 3*]

but Mrs. [Ridnes *?*]* where he is to [trot *?*] is not yet at home -- I think it is very nice for him and his mother to have this first week together for he can come home and tell her things -- better than he could write them. It is a great affair to let him go, and I write all this because you are [as an *?*] Aunt !!

I have been with Mrs.

[*Page 4*]

Fields lately and she is very well. I hope that I shall see you before long dear Rose, it seems a great while since we had a word together in the spring --

Yours most affectionately
Sarah O. Jewett.

Forgive such a hurrying note!

Notes

1896: In this year, Jewett oversaw and contributed the preface for *The Poems of Celia Thaxter*. For Thaxter, Key to Correspondents.

Though Jewett apparently believed when she wrote this letter that a new edition of Thaxter's prose would not soon appear, in fact there was an 1896 edition of *Among the Isles of the Shoals*, a collection of Thaxter's prose. As shown in Jewett's notes for this edition in her 1896 correspondence with Houghton Mifflin, her suggestions for including new chapters were not accepted.

Noble's school: According to Paula Blanchard, *Sarah Orne Jewett* (2002) p. 305, Theodore transferred in fall1896 from the Berwick Academy

to the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA, which is south of Boston.

Ridnes: This transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton & Co.

South Berwick Maine
29 Septr 1896

Messrs. H. O. Houghton & Co.

Gentlemen.

Will you please ask the proofreader to see that the ^title of^ the next before the last chapter of The Pointed Firs* is changed from Poor Dear to Along Shore?

In haste

Yours very truly
Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Firs: This name change was made before the publication of Jewett's 1896 novel, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Lucy Elliot Keeler to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*1 October 1896*]*

My dear Miss Jewett:

I wonder if your edition of Mrs. Thaxter's poems* is entirely in print? not that my question is from idle curiosity or calls for any answer; but because [Mrs. *?*] Johnson,* Warden of the Women's Prison at East Framingham told me last week that she had a charming thing by Mrs. Thaxter which had never been published. You may know of it already, but in either case I am sure

[*Page 2*]

you will pardon my calling your attention to it.

I wish I might lead the charming author of a certain extract from Betty Leicester* to a favorite wall of my rooms where it hangs enthroned. Whoever [climbs *corrected*] to my attic is pretty sure to read it -- and some have been so bold as to say that I gently push them in that direction in order to warn them that certain duties are theirs while under my roof. Wasn't it you who said that the picture belongs most to the person who but sees its meaning?* -- But happily this means more to me than to any one else. I confessed one reason to you before: and for the other, it allows me to sign myself -- as I beg you to believe me

very sincerely yours
Lucy Elliot Keeler

419 Birchard Avenue
Fremont, Ohio, October 1st.

Notes

1896: This date is supported by Keeler's expectation of soon seeing *The Poems of Celia Thaxter*, published in 1896.

Thaxter's poems: Jewett wrote a preface for *The Poems of Celia Thaxter* (1896).

Johnson: Probably, this is American prison reformer, Ellen Cheney Johnson (1829-1899). Wikipedia.

Betty Leicester: Jewett's 1890 novel, *Betty Leicester: A Story for Girls*.
Keeler thanks Jewett for "choice autographs" from *Betty Leicester* in her letter of 23 June 1896.

meaning: The location of this Jewett idea has not yet been located.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 122 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Caroline Jewett Eastman to Sarah Orne Jewett and Mary Rice Jewett

[*1 October 1896*]*
Thursday night.

Dear Sisters,

I am glad indeed of your letter tonight and the dear one from Billy, and a nice one from Dave Gilman* who wants to spend Saturday night with me -- as he is coming up Saturday on his bicycle, if pleasant, of course, and going on to Exeter Sunday. So if you will tell "Mary Ann Boyd" to make your little rooms ready for him please -- if he comes. I shall be glad to see Dave. I don't expect to

[*Page 2*]

get home till Saturday night at six. Mrs. [Kidner*?*] may come tonight -- but I don't believe it. Yet the maids say tomorrow night anyway. I think I shall take the big trunk over tomorrow and get the things out, and finish Saturday -- And Theodore will go to church with the Perrys Sunday, as Eliz. is at [Groveland *?*].* So there will be a seat for him. I think Theodore is very happy in his school, and will "catch on" very easily and quickly, being

[*Page 3*]

friends with Neil Fairchild the first one -- and they evidently all straggled across home together. He said the little while they were in school this morning, they all talked about foot-ball! The teachers were setting classes [ve *?*]. and Thider seems to take heart, tho not much is said, it being a serious occasion. Theodore came home even before Eva left this morning.* I did have a lovely time with her, she being funny and her very dearest beside. Thider & I went down town [parting at Steavens *?*]*, and I

[*Page 4*]

went to [Hoveys *?*] too.* I have to be awfully careful with my foot out doors, its so weak, to say nothing of [*unrecognized word*] from using it. I met with ['Pessy / Percy / Persy' *?*] staring ahead of her, and told her to "drink only [foaming *?*]" and then she [spluttered *?*] and saw me. I never saw her look as she did, except at the 'occasion' at Exeter, when she was overheated. Sometimes she looks [big *?*], yet a lady, but today!*

Oh, if only we had been as a "family" at Keiths.* It was splendid, and I longed for Seddie. Yet Mary today would have thought well

[*Page 5*]

of it. It was a good thing for Theodore to do, to say nothing of his mother! and we did have a beautiful time -- I kept wishing you could have seen a nice real old country woman along the row from us, leaning forward a little with her mouth wide open to take in more, perfectly wrapped in amusement. I was actually glad when she was moved to laugh hard -- [as / at *?*] some of the living pictures in tights. & a splendid skirt-clog girl* must have been a question -- to the poor soul

[*Page 6*]

as I think she was of the "Free will"* persuasion.

Theodore & I dressed before dinner, and ^after^ then went to the Perrys, where we had a great welcome tho' it was evidently a cross to Thider that Elizabeth was away. Georgie* has been so busy fixing and straightening out the house -- I thought -- we never should get away. Only think of Ann [Davis's *?*] fire.* What an occasion for Stubbs to lose. I am wondering if [Toby *?*] came tonight. Tell her she has got to wait -- for me. Thider had [*unrecognized word*] of Bert*

[*Page 7*]

today, who was on hand at school. Thider also called on Talbot Aldrich,* who was very nice -- and said "come in and see a fellow again [*unrecognized marks*] when you can.["] Mr Pierce* was out. Theodore has been [waiting / writing *?*], and may have told you already. Yet it was almost ten when we got home from the Perrys. & he was tired. I am writing on a Harper* in my lap, and hurrying at that. So you must "excuse bad writing.["] Oh, I keep wishing you could have been at Keiths -- it was very good & awfully bright & funny,

[*Page 8*]

and I hate to think of not having Thider [*unrecognized word*] go back, to be speaking about it. I hope the boy will soon find he is to be comfortable and happy at the [Kidners*?*], and we shall really feel we have done the best thing. Give my love to John* and my household. They better give [Tous *?*] the air before going to bed. Sometimes I think he takes trips to the new city, he is gone so long. Yet it works well in the end! With dearest love to you all.

Carrie

Eva guessed she would take Mama as far as Mt. Auburn this afternoon

[*Up the right margin of page 8*]

for the air. [Triena *?*] is on the sea.

Notes

1 October 1896: This date is penciled in by an HNE archivist. At the bottom of page 5 another date is penciled in: 10 OCT 1896. 1 October 1896 fell on a Thursday.

In the fall of 1896, Theodore Jewett Eastman transferred from the Berwick Academy to the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA, which is south of Boston. This letter offers an account of his starting at the new school.

Billy, ... Dave Gilman: *Billy probably* is William Perry Fiske, who is often called "Billy" in the Jewett correspondence. Key to Correspondents.

For David Gilman, see Key to Correspondents, Alice Dunlap Gilman.

"Mary Ann Boyd": Mary Boyd did house-cleaning for the Jewetts as indicated in other letters, but no further information about her has been discovered. There was a Boyd family in South Berwick, as indicated in Wendy Pirsig's *The Placenames of South Berwick* (2007), p. 212, but the identity of this person remains unknown. Also a mystery is why Carrie Eastman puts the name in quotation marks.

Perrys … Groveland: The Perry family references here have not been sorted out. It seems clear that Carrie Eastman, while establishing her son, Theodore, at Noble and Greenough, is staying somewhere in the Boston area with a Perry family, to which she probably is connected on her

mother's side. Members of the family seem to include Georgie, who has been "fixing and straightening out the house," and Elizabeth and Eva, both of whom seem to be younger members of the family, probably daughters.

On this occasion, Elizabeth seems to be in Groveland, MA, a town north of Boston, about 55 miles from Dedham.

No further information on this family has yet been located.

Steavens: This transcription is uncertain. The text suggests that Steavens may refer to a store in downtown Boston.

Hoveys: C. F. Hovey and Company was a dry goods store on Summer Street in Boston, from 1848 until well into the 20th Century.

Kidner ... Fairchild: These people remain mysterious. However, in Theodore's Harvard class of 1901 were the following people:

Frederick C. Kidner, of Massachusetts, who became a physician in Detroit, MI.

Nelson (Neil) Fairchild (1879-1906). He was the son of Charles Fairchild, a Boston banker, and Elizabeth Nelson Fairchild, a poet. The Fairchild family were long-time friends of Sarah Orne Jewett. The Brookline Historical (Massachusetts) Society provides this suggestive sketch of the Sally Fairchild and her family:

> Her father was a wealthy stock broker and banker and her parents were frequent hosts of prominent artists and writers. She never married and often lived with her younger brother, Gordon: at St Paul's School where he ran the Upper School; in the Philippines; in Japan; and, when he returned to Boston around 1930, at his house at 391 Beacon St., Boston. After he died at sea in 1932 she moved to 241 Beacon St.
>
> She made quite an impression on some very famous people of that era. There are descriptions of her by George Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, George Santayana, the Fabian leader Beatrice Webb, and the Shakespearean actress Ellen Terry. Shaw took several photographs of her and corresponded with her for many years. She also gave a young Ethel Barrymore a letter of introduction to Shaw. Here is a description from Gertrude Kittredge Eaton, in her Reminiscences Of St. Paul's School: "Mrs. Fairchild had at one time what might be called a salon, in Boston. She knew all the interesting people of the day. She was one of the first to appreciate Walt Whitman. John Singer Sargent was a great friend, and painted many pictures of Sally, who had lovely red hair. Red hair fascinated Sargent. She was an early admirer of Robert Louis Stevenson. When her husband went abroad one year, she told him to look up young Stevenson and have Sargent paint his portrait, which he did. Stevenson stayed with the Fairchilds in Boston, and Gordon remembered sitting on the foot of his bed while Stevenson told him stories. There are many letters to the Fairchilds in the collected letters of Stevenson.

Pessy ... today: This incident remains obscure in part because of the difficulties of transcription.

Keiths: Benjamin Franklin Keith (1846-1914) was "an American vaudeville theater owner, highly influential in the evolution of variety theater into vaudeville.... In 1885 he joined Edward Franklin Albee II, who was selling circus tickets, in operating the Boston Bijou Theatre. Their opening show was on July 6, 1885. The theatre was one of the early adopters of the continuous variety show which ran from 10:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night, every day. Previously, shows ran at fixed intervals with several hours of downtime between shows. With the continuous show, you could enter the theatre at any time, and stay until you reached the point in the show where you arrived."

skirt-clog girl: If this transcription is correct, Carrie Eastman seems to refer to an act with a female clog dancer, which a person of "Free Will" persuasion would find risqué.

"Free Will" persuasion: Presumably, Carrie refers to the Free Will Baptists. The Free Will Baptist church of South Berwick was just a few steps from the Jewett home. In the 21st century, this denomination would be characterized as fundamentalist and socially conservative.

Ann [Davis's ?] fire: Apparently there was a fire in South Berwick at the home of Ann Davis near the first of October in 1896.

wondering if [Toby ?] came tonight. This person is unknown, and the transcription of the name is uncertain.

Bert: The identity of Bert is unknown.

Talbot Aldrich: Talbot Bailey Aldrich (1868 - 1957), a painter, is one of the twin sons of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Harper on my lap: Presumably, Carrie is using a copy of *Harper's Magazine* as backing for her paper as she writes.

John: John probably was John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

The transcription of "Tous" is uncertain, but presumably he was a pet dog.

Eva ... Mama ... Mt. Auburn: The people are not yet identified, though an Eva is mentioned in other letters. See: Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett [September 9, 1900]; Sarah Orne Jewett

to Elizabeth J. Gilman [September 22, 1905]. So far, only one mutual acquaintance of Fields and Jewett named Eva is Baroness Eva von Blomberg; Key to Correspondents. However, it seems unlikely that the seemingly young woman mentioned here is the Baroness.

Mt. Auburn is a well-known cemetery about 14 miles from Dedham. It is the burial place of a number of prominent Americans, including Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner and the clergyman Phillips Brooks.

[Triena ?] *is on the sea*: The transcription of this name is very uncertain and the person has not been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the archive of Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, MS014.02.01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sara Norton Fragment

Thursday night, [*Autumn 1896*].*

Today we went out to the desired Canterbury to the great Shaker convent, which I have long wished to visit: it is more like a monastery than Alfred, and in some ways more interesting. I found friends of our old acquaintances there and heard the Alfred news. This great group of old houses is on a high hill, quite Italian in its site, and the views of the great lower country and the mountains beyond are wonderful. The color was most splendid today, and the lights and shadows chasing each other from yellow maple to brown oak. It would be a perfect place to send children now and then, as we used to think at Alfred. I shall love to tell you about it. I was deeply touched at heart to find the old sisters knew my stories ever so long ago, and were getting up a little excitement about my being there. The girls and my cousins had a great day, but such days are almost too much pleasure for my heart to bear, the pathos, -- the joy of those faces, the innocent gayety of their dull lives.

Notes

Fall 1896: Fields dates this fragment in 1897, but in *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Blanchard says that in the fall of 1896, Jewett and Fields visited the Shaker settlement at Canterbury, NH (p. 302). According to M. F. Melcher, *The Shaker Adventure* (1968), the community at Alfred, Maine was the smaller; founded in 1792 and closing in 1931, the community had 70 members in 1874. The larger community at Canterbury, New Hampshire was founded in 1792 and had 145 members in 1874.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

Monday [Oct *corrected*] 5th
[*1896*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I send the dedication for the Pointed Firs* and I should like to see it in type. Please direct to me at Concord. N.H. Care W. P. Fiske Esqre until Wednesday ^aft.^ and after Wednesday to South Berwick again.

In haste
Yrs truly S. O. Jewett

Notes

1896: To the left of the addressee is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 6 October 1896. Uncharacteristically, this letter is on a single half sheet, with two holes punched at the top. Above Jewett's signature are initials that *may* be: JNL.

Pointed Firs: *The Country of the Pointed Firs* appeared as a book late in 1896, after most of it was serialized in *Atlantic Monthly*. The dedication reads: "To Alice Greenwood Howe." Jewett's request to see it in type seems to suggest that it was originally more elaborate.

W. P. Fiske: William "Willy" Perry Fiske, who served as treasurer at the New Hampshire Savings Bank, in Concord, NH. was Jewett's cousin, a nephew of her maternal aunt, Lucretia Fisk Perry, according to Richard Cary. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Tuesday --
[*6 October 1896*]*

Dear Sarah;

You got a screed of such length yesterday that you ought to read it by sections and not need any more for a week but perhaps you will feel better to know that it has been a fine birthday so far, and the day is to be further celebrated by a [vyge *so it appears*] to York with Fanny and John.* He was quite speechless at the first sight of the bag, and then recovered presence of mind to say that it was the

[*Page 2*]

handsomest thing he ever saw, and his face was a picture of delight.

Caddy gave him half a ticket book which was also a great pleasure. I hope [Willy *?*] Howell* will not take today for his visit, but Thiddy was so eager to go that it seemed a shame to keep him back. Some people he likes are to leave very soon, so this seemed to be the [appinted *so it appears*] time. We took a turn with Fanny round the [Hays *?*] farm yesterday and she behaved pretty all the way except she was rather anxious to race down the Somersworth hill but John managed her nicely{.}

[*Page 3*]

Carries [ancle *? so it appears*] is improving but still aches a good deal of course. She says the swelling has gone down even since last night and it isn't so black but it will take some days yet to get her on her feet again I am afraid. I saw Frances* go by 'in the cat' last night, so if either she or Susy appear today I shall step myself tomorrow morning. Sarah Leah* is on the high road again, so I hope she will get off Thursday. "Mandy M^{c} Intire" has it on her mind to start her. [Therefore *corrected*] we may indulge a hope. Cousin Maria* wrote a nice letter asking you and me over

[*Page 4*]

for Sunday and to go to that old church, but I told her we could not go for the present{.} I am going now to D^{r} Stoddard* to be mended up, and then I shall go to interview Frances afterward. The pageant has started for York, and the days affairs are beginning. Much love from an aff sister. There have been no letters except the one from Georgina which I sent you yesterday. Mrs Doe* told me that she didnt think her mother seemed very well though she had a beautiful time.

Notes

1896: Almost certainly this letter pairs with another letter from Mary to Sarah Jewett that deals in part with the celebration of the 6 October birthday of Jewett caretaker John Tucker, which fell on a Tuesday in 1896.

This letter seems to have been written early on the day of Tucker's birthday. The other letter almost certainly was composed at the end of that same day. In that letter, Jewett mentions the recent death of Mary Elizabeth Garrett's brother, Robert Garrett II, who, according to his gravestone at Find a Grave, died on 29 July 1896.

Willy Howell: The Jewetts had a cousin in Philadelphia, PA, Sarah Jane McHenry Howell (1852-1927), married to William Howell, Jr. (1849-1916). Their son, William Roberts Howell was born the same year as Theodore Jewett Eastman, 1879. The odds seem good that this is the Willy Howell that Theodore hopes to see.

Frances ... Susy: Susy probably was cousin Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1954).

The Jewetts had many local acquaintances named Frances.

Sarah Leah: Sarah Leah, apparently of South Berwick, worked as Jewett's typist and is mentioned in several letters. She may have been Sarah Leah Huntress of South Berwick.

"Mandy M^{c} Intire": Amanda McIntire (1849-1915) and her husband, John (1847-1904), provided funeral services in South Berwick, ME, during Jewett's life.

Cousin Maria: Maria Parker Perry Robinson (1817-1912). See notes for Sarah to Mary Jewett of 17 March 1896.

Dr. Stoddard: The second letter of this date shows that Dr. Stoddard was a dentist. A Dr. [G. or C.] E. Stoddard was a dentist practicing in Sanford, ME, in the 1890s.

Doe ... Georgina: Edith Bell Haven Doe and Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents. If Mrs. Doe was referring to Halliburton's mother, that would have been Susan Halliburton Peters, who died the following year in April.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908. This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*6 October 1896*]*

Dear Seddy;

Your letter was most welcome tonight and I will tell you so before I go to bed, for fear there will be little time in the morn{.} It has been a beautiful birthday apparently. Such looks were cast at the bag, and when he came home there were the two dear letters waiting for him which were greatly beseemed and shown with pride to me.

[*Page 2*]

It was a great day at York in spite of the heat, for chosen friends were seen and a place was made at the table &c. The young lady sent sister [Carry *?*] a beautiful bunch of pink sweet peas which was canny! They named Fanny to have stepped pretty

only a little fussy at the hills sometimes, and it was 'dredful' hot over at the Sea Cottage where John elected to go!

I did up a lot of things this

[*Page 3*]

morning besides getting my tooth filled, calling on Carrie & Annie Young* among others, and got a good chance to speak with Carrie alone to give Becky a little tonic because she gets tired out so quick, which was gratefully received as the need for it had been seen. Frances is coming tomorrow morn very dear and pleasant and Susy came tonight so glad to get back. Caddy* is better tonight, but her foot has ached ^all day^ in the tiresome fashion that

[*Page 4*]

such things always do, but I think she will be nicely tomorrow. The afternoon has been so hot and still but now I hear a little air stirring which is a vast relief. Mr Morton* [brough{t} Mr [David *?*] Webster to the door this afternoon with his niece. Such a simple nice man, who begged me to come to see him some time, and I mean to do it. He is such a contrast to his brother who came once, and the niece is

[*Page 5*]

also nice. I have the skirt all packed and the other things you mentioned only I could find but part of a Bunker Hill paper so I put in the other kind{.} Georgina's* letter sounded very pleasant. Susy was quite agog about the engagement also. Our schemes for Georgie seem to have been in vain. I had such a nice letter from Mary Harriet* which I will send if I

[*Page 6*]

do not forget it in the morning in my haste getting off.

The Dickeys* were over at Newburyport house hunting today. I saw Mrs. D. stalking past on the other side like a fury tonight. That young [Joy *?*] after getting much better [has *corrected*] had a relapse and is very ill indeed with peritonitis so that it seems doubtful if he gets well, poor young fellow.

Caddy had a call from [O. *?*] this afternoon who

[*Page 7*]

really looked better than the last time I saw her down street, as people seem to have the way of doing after a severe illness now.

Is Miss Garrett* coming on now that her brother has died? Your letter all sounded very pleasant and dear, and I wished I had you here to talk about it. I think often how glad I shall be when these chances & changes are over and we can settle down

[*Page 8*]

under our own vine and fig tree* and enjoy some nice crisp October weather only then we shall not have our nice Stubby!

Dick & Jane were conveyed to pasture yesterday much to their delight John said. "Never <u>see</u> the old man look s'well, & he did jump limber s, n', eel" all of which is respectfully submitted by an aff sister who desires greatly to send love to A.F.

Notes

1896: Opening with a reference to the birthday of John Tucker, this letter appears to be written on the evening of the same day as the other 6 October 1896 letter from Mary to Sarah Jewett.

Annie Young ... Becky: Rebecca Young. Key to Correspondents. "Annie Young" was Rebecca Young's sister, Anna R. Young (1863-1943). Find a Grave.

This sentence is obscure. Perhaps Jewett asked Carrie to see that Becky took the recommended tonic.

Below we learn that Caddy continues suffering from an injured ankle.

Frances ... Susy: Susy probably was cousin Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1954).

The Jewetts had many local acquaintances named Frances.

Mr Morton ... Mr David Webster: Mr. Morton may be a Rollinsford, NH, neighbor, William H. Morton (1814-1904).

The transcription of David Webster is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

Georgina's: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Harriet: Mary Harriet Denny. See Augusta Denny Tyler in Key to Correspondents.

Dickeys: Probably George A. Dickey (1857-1935), Principal of the Berwick Academy. His wife was Beede Cooper Dickey (1855-1943) and his daughter was Margaret Perry Dickey Rollins (1890-1981). Find a Grave. Sarah Orne Jewett mentions him in her essay, "The Old Town of Berwick" (1894).

Whether the sick young male, (Joy or Joey ?), was connected with the Dickeys is not yet known.

Garrett: Mary Elizabeth Garrett. Key to Correspondents. Her brother, Robert Garrett II died on 29 July 1896.

vine and fig tree: The origin of this phrase is the Bible, e.g. Micah 4:4 and Zechariah 3:10. It has been frequently quoted and paraphrased since.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908. This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

South Berwick
10 October 1896*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I have your letter of inquiry in regard to a "poem of Mrs. Thaxters"* called The Parson's Daughter. I have no recollection of having seen it either in print or among [Mrs. *corrected*] Thaxter's papers --

Perhaps it may be found among some of the volumes ^of miscellaneous collections from Wide Awake^ printed by Messrs. D. Lothrop and Co.

Your very truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1896: Below the addressee is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 12 October 1896.
Uncharacteristically, this letter is on a single half sheet, with two holes punched at the top.
Above Jewett's signature are initials that *may* be: N.A. for "not available?"; ARS, probably for Azariah Smith.

Mrs. Thaxters: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.
As yet, no record has been located that Thaxter wrote a poem entitled "The Parson's Daughter."
Wide Awake was a magazine for young readers; D. Lothrop and Co. regularly produced anthologies selected from the magazine.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

October 18, 1896.

I have really been working day and night for weeks, the little portraits of the little children, and then Dr. Mitchell appearing with a view to portraiture and yet with a relish for Society;* these things have kept me on a stretch not wholly admirable. However one got something out of it, and some moments of intercourse with the children -- some hints of the untried secrets of those little hearts have seemed to me deep chapters in experience. But without time I will not speak of the eternities.

Notes

Dr. Mitchell: Whitman is working on a portrait of Silas Weir Mitchell (1829-1914), one of the best-known American physicians of the nineteenth century, famed for his "rest cure" for nervous diseases such as neurasthenia. He was the author of a pair of historical novels as well as of poetry and biography.

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

South Berwick
Friday
[*October 1896*]*

I wish that this were the day for my being in town, instead of Wednesday when there was no S.W. at the studio as I hoped with all my heart -- But I had one splendid glimpse of the Glass over Mr. Walker's* shoulders and stopped farther in to look at it in the mirror as he proudly bade me.

I did so wish to see you darling

[*Page 2*]

and now I fear me it will not be for another fortnight unless wishing brings you this way -- 'The shore' seems as far away and mysterious as the irrigated districts of the planet Mars* the moment one has left it finally -- I went over on [Tuesday *? corrected*] evening to move to town in company on Wednesday morning. Now A.F. is here with me for as long as threats and

[*Page 3*]

cajolery combined will [*deletion*] manage to keep her -- we are going to spend Sunday with Helen at Stonehurst -- a great play -- and then I shall make the most of the charms of Berwick, for every week that one can keep A.F. away from works and

ways* in town is so much good laid up for winter weather.

I was delighted to see that the Rome paper* was in this months Atlantic

[*Page 4*]

I go to read it with great kindness because it seems a late echo from our Ashfield* journey when we talked about it together.

I have not seen my Pointed Firs book* yet but hear about its cover from others.

I have put Alice Howe's name in it because she liked the sketches and I wished to make her a pleasure if I could, but this great secret she does not know yet until she gets the book in hand & finds it for herself one day next week. You would

[*Page 5*]

do well to come to Berwick dear -- there is such a picture of Cortina,* home in its frame at last after delays; it makes a room large with a great mountain slope, and gives a new neighborhood [with *corrected*] that towered town -- but with what love and ever new imagination and sympathy my eyes look at it and my heart remembers it I shall not try to tell you --

With this hurried letter

[*Page 6*]

many other things must go unsaid

Yours ever
S.O.J.

Notes

1896: This year is confirmed by Jewett's expecting the appearance of her 1896 novel, *The Country of the Pointed Firs.* By the end of October, it would seem likely that she could anticipate seeing a copy soon. Fields would normally move from her summer home back to Boston during October.

Mr. Walker's: This person has not yet been identified. He is mentioned in other letters between Whitman and Jewett, and it appears that he worked with Whitman on glass. Boston architect and educator, Charles Howard Walker (1857-1936), was an active supporter of the Boston Museum of Fine Art and is mentioned often in documents related to the museum that show him having considerable interest in stained glass. Wikipedia.

Mars: Speculation about possible "canals" on Mars became particularly intense near the end of the 19th century. "Martian canals" in Wikipedia.

Helen at Stonehurst: The estate of Helen Bigelow Merriman was Stonehurst. Key to Correspondents.

works and ways: In her letters, Jewett often repeats this Biblical-sounding phrase, sometimes within quotation marks. The actual phrase does not appear, as one might expect, in the King James Bible, though it is suggested in several places: Psalms 145:17, Daniel 4:37, and Revelations 15:3. In each of these passages, the biblical author refers to the works and ways of God. Jewett may be quoting from another source or from commentary on these passages, which tend to emphasize that while God's ways are mysterious, they also are to be accepted humbly by humanity.

Rome paper: Which paper Jewett refers to is not certain. *The Country of the Pointed Firs* appeared in December of 1896. Jewett may have had her copy in November and certainly by early December. An *Atlantic* article on Rome in October 1896 was "The Fate of the Coliseum" by Rodolfo Lanciani (pp. 531-7); there are no others in *Atlantic* in November or December.

Ashfield: The summer home of Sara Norton. Key to Correspondence.

Alice Howe's: Jewett dedicated *The Country of the Pointed Firs* to Alice Greenwood Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Cortina: Cortina d'Ampezzo, a leading summer and winter Alpine resort area in northern Italy.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 277.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

Old Place,* October 25, 1896.

It was a great comfort to get that dear letter and it gave me beside a swift impulse to go sailing down the coast to Berwick. . . .* I did not do it; but that is only an incident, the impulse was the large, round, whole scheme. Now it's Sunday, and on Wednesday I shall strike my tent and be off for the winter campaign, with a terrible sense of weakness at the heart, but a great many straps and buckles about the belt, wherewith I hope to make some stout show.

Notes

Old Place: The Old Place, Beverly Farms, between Beverly and Manchester-by-the-Sea in MA., was the location of the Whitman summer home.

Berwick: Sarah Orne Jewett's home in South Berwick, Maine.

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside

Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney

148 Charles Street
Monday --
[*Autumn 1896*]*

Dear Louise

I had a talk with Mr. Putnam of the Public Library yesterday and he asked me to say something to you about the matter of your taking a position in the Catalogue Department in course of time. He seems to think that he told us that you had better make formal application when we [*deletion*] saw him last year, but I do not remember that it was so; I thought that

[*Page 2*]

we were to wait and hear from him someday!

But however that may be, I think that he wishes you to go through this form now, and you can go to the Library to see him or write and ask him for directions. He wished me to say that you would go in for a time to Grade B which is on a ^lowest^ basis of eleven dollars a week & rising from that -- but presently, finding you ready for intelligent work in literary matters! you would go into Grade A at increased rates. The work is from 9 to 5 o'clock with 24 days* vacation

[*Page 3*]

beside [*deletion*] public holidays.*

--- I think that this is all he wished me to say. For myself I think, as I said last year, and as Mrs. Fields thinks & says too that once belonging to the corps of the Library you would stand a chance of finding some ^more responsible &^ particular piece of work and making it your own. . It must be looked after directly, now -- I should say, to please Mr. Putnam who wishes to put his [wheels *corrected*] in motion! I was afraid that he thought I

[*Page 3*]

had been remiss but I certainly did not understand!

It seems very long since we have seen you -- I have been coming to town and going home again as fast as I could run, but after a week at South Berwick now, I hope to be here for a longer stretch --

Your most sincerely
Sarah O. Jewett

We were much interested a week ago Saturday at seeing Mr. Day* & a mandarin sitting together at a Symphony concert!*

Notes

1896: This letter is dated by the preceding one (See Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney 5 December, 1895) since it was written the year following their appointment in the Boston Public Library to see Mr. Putnam. That it was written in the autumn is indicated by Jewett's recent presence at a Boston Symphony Orchestra concert, the subscription series of which began in autumn for the 1896-7 season.

Lucey notes that "Mrs. Fields willed Louise Guiney a half-share for life in the annual interest derived from the sale of this [Charles Street, Boston] house." (A. L. S., Feb. 11, 1915 of LIG to R. Norton, in the Guiney Collection in Dinand Library.)

24 days: Jewett originally wrote "28 days," then wrote a "4" over the "8."

George Herbert Putnam (1861-1855) was an American librarian who served as Librarian of Congress (1899-1939). Wikipedia.

Lucey says, "Herbert Putnam did find a place for Louise Guiney in the Boston Public Library and she worked in the Catalogue Department from January 22, 1899 to December 27, 1900. There "in our great Boston Public Library" she found the atmosphere more congenial and her 'daily chore' to her liking." She left what she found onerous work for the U. S. Post Office.

Mr. Day: Frederick Holland Day. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Dinand Library of Holy Cross College in the collection of materials of Louise Imogen Guiney, Box: SC007-GUIN-004, Folder: 40. A transcription by William L. Lucey, S. J. appeared in "'We New Englanders': Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney." *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia* 70 (1959): 58-64.

The manuscript includes penciled marks and page numbers apparently added in another hand. This new transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick
26 October
[*1896*]*

My dear Loulie

I had been thinking that when I got to my desk again I should write a letter to wait for you at the Boston house -- and here comes yours first, to meet me! I have been away for a few days. A.F.*

left Manchester last Wednesday and went to town and now she is here

[*Page 2*]

with me for a little visit; I do so love to keep her away from town while the weather is so good, but she thinks a great deal about Ward Seven in spite of the attractions of October and of Berwick. I am delighted to know that you had such a good passage dear, and I think I understand many of the things you did not say in your letter about coming home. I wish that

[*Page 3*]

I could make you a good long call at Thisselwood today and hear about everything, and see your dear aunts moreover, which is such a pleasure [and *or* in *?*] itself! I shall most likely be going up to town next week for a night and I shall surely see you if I can. With much love and a very warm welcome

Ever your affectionate

S.O.J.

Dont you think that some nice day this winter we had better go ^together!^ to visit dear friends in Salem? I quite look forward to it already{.} You might just speak of it at Thisselwood, and see!!

Notes

1896: "1896" is penciled here in another hand. With this letter is an envelope addressed to Mifs Dresel, Care of Miss Caroline H. King, Thisselwood, Prides Crossing, Massachusetts, and cancelled in South Berwick on 25 October 1896. Thisselwood was the summer home of the King family. For Caroline Howard King, Key to Correspondents.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields was active in the Associated Charities of Boston, which gave a good deal of attention to residents in Ward Seven of the city.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

James C. Davis* to Sarah Orne Jewett

70 Kilby Street.
Boston. Oct. 28. 1896.

Dear Miss Jewett:

I take pleasure in sending you photographs of the church, the market place, & the old wind mill at Berwick-in-Elmet, Yorkshire* --

With sincere regard,
I am very truly yours,

James C. Davis

Notes

Davis: John C. Davis has not yet been identified, but it is likely he was connected with the Boston printing firm, Benjamin Edes, then located in the Mason Building at 70 Kilby Street. With this letter is a small envelope incorrectly addressed to Jewett at 142 Charles Street, unstamped and, presumably, hand-delivered.

Berwick-in-Elmet: Barwick-in-Elmet is a village near Leeds in West Yorkshire, UK. Wikipedia notes that this name is pronounced "Barrick."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Sarah F. Wilson* to Sarah Orne Jewett

East Canterbury N.H.
Oct. 31. 1896.

Sarah O. Jewett,

Our Friend and Sister,

Your cloak has been made by one of the Shaker sisters, Sarah F. Wilson who, when eight years of age, was given a home in the family where you visited and has grown to love and choose the faith seemingly marked out for her; happily, her mother and older sister are living with her, coming from the state of Iowa in the year 1869. It has proved a faith, fruitful in peace and blessedness.

We really hope the cloak will

[*Page 2*]

prove satisfactory in both shade and style. Should any of your friends desire a similar one they will kindly let us know. I have read of you as an Authoress and please consider me kindly and as not too forward if I ask you to send me a copy of your thoughts on some subject as you have given out in book form. I ask in behalf of many sisters and I will pay the price. Should you in your acquaintance see any young woman who may like to try the home experience with us you will kindly introduce her to your Shaker Sister,

Sarah F. Wilson.

P.S.

I omitted to say, that I made the hood of your cloak by a large pattern, as you mentioned wishing a large size, and have folded the edge over a little as some ladies choose to wear in this way.

Sarah

Notes

Wilson: Sarah F. Wilson (1860- c. 1935) moved with her entire family to East Canterbury in 1869 as she reports. See *Shaker Autobiographies, Biographies and Testimonies, 1806-1907,* Vol 3, by Glendyne R. Wergland (2017*)* p. 425 ff.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (240). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Margaret Oliphant Wilson Oliphant to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]*
The Hermitage,
Wimbledon Common,
Wimbledon.
[*End letterhead*]

1st November
[*1896*]*

My dear Miss Jewett

You must think me very rude to be so long of answering your very kind, may I say it affectionate letter -- I see it is six months since it came to me -- Forgive me -- it is a very sad old woman to whom your kind words came -- which would have been a great pleasure to her had there been such a thing as a great pleasure remaining to her in this world. I have had a very chequered life; much happiness but more pain, and I* am now straying along towards the end bereaved of all my children, and longing for them, with longing

[*Page 2*]

that cannot be uttered -- This I am sure will make your warm heart pardon me{.} I am not much of a literary woman -- though I have done so much writing -- (I have been* most of all a mother -- [and *corrected*] my occupation is gone --

Thank you for your [*deletion*] kind letter{.} I am pleased to think that it is my dear old friend who has introduced us to each other though your name is very familiar to me, and I have some of your books -- ~~Though~~h ^But^ we do not get them here so easily as you get ours, and your dialect puzzles us a little. I am a pretty person to say so who must have given you trouble ~~about~~ enough with my Scotch! -- but your forms of speech though often so picturesque are difficult, and we Scots take liberties on the score of Sir Walter* who has made his language classical --

I am not much of a correspondent -- but if you should feel in the mood at any time to write to me again, may I say that I should like to hear more of the writer of so pleasant and friendly a letter?

very truly yours
M. O. W. Oliphant*

Notes

Letterhead: On the black-bordered first page, centered above the text of the letterhead is a figure consisting of a rampant dragon before a cross. Twined upward around the cross is a banner with the name MARGARET.

1896: Below Oliphant's date, '96 is penciled in another hand. With this letter is a black-bordered envelope addressed to Jewett at "198 Charles Street," Boston, an incorrect address for Annie Fields, and forwarded to South Berwick, ME. On the back, it was cancelled in Boston on 12 November 1896.

The envelope has been damaged. It appears that postage due was charged to take the letter from Boston to South Berwick.

I: Oliphant may have deleted this word.

I have been: The open parenthesis may have been penciled by another.

Oliphant: In November of 1896, Jewett may have been moved to write Oliphant as a result of reading one of her last four novels, probably: *Two Strangers* (1895), *Old Mr. Tregold* (1895), or *The Unjust Steward* (1896). Her very last novel was *The Ways of Life* (1897). The last of Oliphant's children died in 1894. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item . I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to an unidentified recipient*

148 Charles Street
Tuesday morning [*November 1896*]*

Thank you so much for your most kind and dear note dear friend -- This is what Susy Travers* and I both thought it, for I sent it right away to her and she writes me this morning. She was only here from noon on Thursday to eight o'clock next morning when she went to Newport. I

[*Page 2*]

found that nothing would give her more pleasure than to see you again and we were both much disappointed not to find you at home. We must talk about Susan one of those days! I have known her a long time and have watched her grow. You

would delight in her real wit and honest brusque ways and (what I can only call in this hurried moment!) her individuality!!

Yours most affectionately Sarah O. Jewett

[*Page 3*]

How delightful Dr Weir Mitchells new story is! I really love it and [*unrecognized word*] old Gainor Wynne and that exquisite French lady the mother.* I have found myself thinking sadly that she was dead: we must have a good talk about such a good live story as Hugh Wynne! it is far and away the best thing going. I do not get hold of the Martian* yet and

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

it seems so tired – I can somehow always see our Maurices* tired kind face over his book

[*Page 4*]

Mrs. Fields* is better and sits up quite gallantly by the fire for a good bit of the day. I try to make life so enchanting in this state of health that she will forget about going down stairs.

Notes

November 1896: This date is based upon Jewett's apparent reference to Weir Mitchell's "new story," which began to appear in serial in November 1896, and upon her not yet knowing of the death of Du Maurier.

unknown recipient: The Maine Woman Writers Collection groups this letter with others from Jewett to Dr. Weir Mitchell, but this text seems clearly *about* him in part. While Jewett *could* have written to Mitchell himself in this way, that would not be characteristic of her work.

Susy Travers: Key to Correspondents.

Mitchells new story: For Silas Weir Mitchell, Key to Correspondents. His new story was *Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker* (1897), which began appearing in serial in *Century Magazine* (53:1) in November 1896, and continued through October 1897.

the Martian: George Du Maurier (1834 - 8 October 1896) was author of *The Martian: A Novel*, which began to appear in serial in *Harper's New Monthly* (93:557) in October and November of 1896, after which it was discontinued, perhaps because of the author's death. The completed novel was published posthumously in 1898.

our Maurices: Jewett presumably refers to du Maurier, with whom she was friends. It appears that when she composed this letter, she did not yet know of du Maurier's death, of which she had learned by 9 November, when she wrote to Ellen Mason.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Houghton Autograph File to S. Weir Mitchell #1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ednah Dow Cheney*

9 November 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.
Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Mrs Cheney

I have left answering your letter until the last minute because I waited to go to Boston and hunt through my desk there to see if I could possibly find any verses that were fit to print. I do so hate to say no when you ask me to do

[*Page 2*]

anything -- but I [almost *corrected*] never write verses at all and then they are pretty bad! at least I never finish them or make any account for them -- though when I was younger and knew less of what made good verse I used to print them sometimes. This search has quite convinced me that whatever feeling I have in the direction

[*Page 3*]

of poetry had much better go -- for what little it is worth -- into my prose sketches!

Indeed I am much interested in the fair, and I am counting on doing all I can as a customer if in no other way.

I write this note with real regret: I should so like to have answered you as you wished.

Yours most affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Cheney: Smith College Special Collections archivists identify Mrs. Cheney as Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney (1824-1904). Cheney presumably was gathering materials that could be sold at a holiday fund-raising fair. Such fairs often were held by churches between Thanksgiving and Christmas to raise money for charitable purposes.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Smith College Special Collections, Northampton, MA, Letters --Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1890-96, undated. New England Hospital for Women and Children records, Sophia Smith Collection, SSC-MS-00339.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Ellen Chase

9 *November*, 1896, South Berwick, Maine.

Dear Ellen Chase, -- How very good of you to send me these nice photographs of Whitby!* The face of the old woman is really wonderful, with its eyes that have watched the sea, -- indeed every one is interesting. I brought home a good many in 1892,* and wished for more, -- but is it not delightful that all these are new and different? I am very grateful to you, dear, for such kind thought. I knew Whitby first through Mr. Lowell,* who used to talk much about his summers there: so that after he died, and I went there, the place was full of memories of him. Do you know (of course, you do) his letters about it in the Life that Mr. Norton edited?* I am sorry to say that Mrs. Fields overlooked one, in sending her letters to Mr. Norton, which is more beautiful than any: about grey St. Hilda's Abbey and the red roofs of the old town.* And now as I look back I remember also how I went about the streets of Whitby with Mr. Du Maurier and his little dog, and one day I heard the songs in "Peter Ibbetson,"* with their right tunes sung by that charming voice that is silent now. So, with all this, you see that pictures of Whitby mean a great deal to me.

I am very glad to have the photograph of your own house. It looks as if it were old, and not new: it looks as if it were not without a past and dear associations, which is much to say of a new house. Some day -- oh, yes indeed! -- I should like dearly to come and see it.

Yours very affectionately.

I wonder if you have not been reading "Sir George Tressady,"* -- a really great and beautiful story as I think. I care very much for it.

Notes

Whitby: Wikipedia says: "Whitby is a seaside town, port and civil parish in the Borough of Scarborough and English county of North Yorkshire."

1892: Jewett and friends spent several months in Europe during 1892, including a visit to Whitby.

Mr. Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

Life that Mr. Norton edited: Charles Eliot Norton was the author of *James Russell Lowell* (1893) and the editor of a number of Lowell's works. Key to Correspondents.

St. Hilda's Abbey: also known as Whitby Abbey in Whitby.

"Peter Ibbetson": *Peter Ibbetson* (1891), by George DuMaurier, who had died recently on 8 October 1896). Key to Correspondents.

Sir George Tressady: Mrs. Humphry Ward's *Sir George Tressady* appeared in 1896. Key to Correspondents.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911). New transcription and notes.

Barton Orville Aylesworth to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined portions handwritten*]
DRAKE UNIVERSITY
BARTON O. AYLESWORTH, President
Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 12th -- 1896
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett:

I have been profoundly interested in "The Country of the Pointed Pines,"* [the *?*] originality and the vividness of its portraiture are incomparable in our new literature.

I have no doubt thousands feel just as I do, a feeling which scarcely [warrents *so spelled*] a communication of this nature.

I write because I have a story in process of building. It was written largely in a village school house -- in a mining camp in Colorado, its best scenes like in the school house, and are grouped about an old man of eastern birth, much culture, a [Shakesperian, *so spelled*], strong in imagination but weak in Judgment, and ^who^ hardly counts for more than an echo of [other *?*] times, and forgotten people. He is a [creature *?*] of strange dreams, and as sensitive in soul as is an infant is in flesh. He is an "actual," and I love him both in and out of the book. It will probably be sometime now before the sketch will be completed. This may not even interest you -- but it is [written *?*]

Most cordially
Barton O. Aylesworth*

I mail you today a copy of "Song and Fable."

Notes

Pointed Pines: Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* appeared in 1896.

Aylesworth: Wikisource says that Barton Orville Aylesworth,

> ... was born in Athens, Ill., Sept. 5, 1860; son of Ezra M. Aylesworth. He was graduated at Eureka college in 1879, and was married. Dec. 12, 1882, to Georgia L. Shores. He was president of Drake university, 1889-'97; pastor of the Central church of Christ at Denver, Col., 1897-'99 and president of the Colorado State college at Fort Collins from 1900. He received the degree of LL.D. from Drake university;

lectured on American literature, and is the author of "Thirteen and twelve Others"; and "Song and Fable."

A note with this letter in another hand reads: "Taken from Song and Fable, Barton O. Aylesworth."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, Item 13 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Charles Dudley Warner to Sarah Orne Jewett

Hartford

Nov 12 1896

Dear Friend,

I am now sure, having read every line, that it is in [*unrecognized word*] of the first quality. It has pleased me through and through. Not only in its fine [scenes *?*] of New England [first *?*] and of human nature but in its exquisite language.* It seemed to me as I read that you never did any other thing so uniformly good. Look at the texture, the restraint. I wrote to Mrs Humphry Ward* what I thought. I am just back from a month of hard work and [many dinners *?*] in New York. While there

[*Page 2*]

Mrs Slosson* read it [and was as ?] [*two unrecognized words*] as I am. I do not know another [critic *?*] whose discernment for [fine *?*] literature is [*unrecognized word*] than [hers *?*]. I am really proud of you for having [so won her liking *?*].

I am studying up ancient Egypt for a visit in [*unrecognized word*].

I wish you well
Yours affectionately
Chas. Dudley Warner

Notes

language: Warner responds to Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, recently issued in book form after appearing in an *Atlantic Monthly* serial earlier in 1896.

Warner's handwriting is quite challenging. Many of the words I believe I recognize are guesswork. Anyone working with this material should examine the manuscript.

Ward: Mary Augusta Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Slosson: Annie Trumbull Slosson. Key to Correspondents. See Slosson to Jewett of 13 November 1896.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 5, Item 230.

Annie Trumbull Slosson to Sarah Orne Jewett

39 E 23rd St
New York
[*13 November 1896*]

My dear Mifs Jewett

This is as far as I can remember, the first time I ever [addresfed *so spelled*] "an unknown author." But I have just laid down your Country of the Pointed Firs and I want to say a few words about it. I tell you frankly that it may be partly because of my strong feeling as to the present condition of literature that I have taken this book

[*Page 2*]

so to my heart. This day of Breathings Sighs, Cameos, Silhouettes, Quatrains, Clots of Bloody Bravery etc. etc. make me tired. I'm dreadfully old. But I am young again for the hour as I read your story, and [want *?*] to thank you for doing and for [being all *?*] this [*unrecognized word or words*]. Mr. Warner brought me his copy a day or two ago, knowing it would delight me. May I say a word or two of details. Did you ever hear that certain old, [flowered *?*] glass came from Tobago? I have particular and [*unrecognized word*] reasons for asking.

[*Page 3*]

"Copycat" is quite new to me and lovely. So also with "sleeving"* anybody along. The gala company occasions of my childhood are [appointed *?*] with hearts and rounds, but why do you write it 'rounds as if an abbreviation? Or is that yr. proofreader's idea. There are lots more things I want to say, but I spare you. I want to meet you. Do you ever come to New York? Do let me know when you are here. I have always had an intense admiration for your work. It is deepened by reading this last.

Very sincerely
Annie Trumbull Slosson

November 13 / 96

Notes

1896: This date has been penciled in another hand.

Pointed Firs: Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

Warner: This transcription is uncertain, but probably Slosson refers to Jewett correspondent, Charles Dudley Warner. Key to Correspondents.

"sleeving": Slosson takes note of words Jewett used in *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 199. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Margaret Thomson Janvier to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

[*Late 1896*]*

graft a peach-tree

If only I could have you for a day on the [Manasquan *?*] river, away down on the Jersey coast. It is a day's business to go & come, for the river winds like a ribbon thrown down. But at last, the boat arrives where there is no thoroughfare.

And the only drawback is the threatening gaze of cows upon the bank, where the river is very narrow & quite wadable. There

[*Page 2*]

are pines & other trees, & there is a wild clematis & there is a place where trees try to hide the stream.

But for me, all that is over I am "so fast in prison that I cannot get forth,"* & my prison is a bed. So now you can imagine my joy in journeying with you through your Country of the Pointed Firs -- First by means of the Atlantic Monthly & again more lately through the book, which -- so small

[*Page 3*]

is this world -- was the copy you sent ~~by~~ to my good friend, Dr. Weir [Mitchell *corrected*],* & it was lent me by his son, who for the three months or so which I have just spent in Phila, vainly trying to get mended, showered books upon me, with other kindnesses immeasurable.

I am so glad that two or three mournful pages concealed themselves, & did not get into that sunny Country. And could you not be a little more industrious, dear Miss Jewett?

[*Page 4*]

Just think of the flood of [pessimism *?*] which is to be [*unrecognized word*], & how few are trying to stem it. A girl whom I love, & who is beginning to write well, resented, at first, my strictness on her [pessimism *?*] -- & the other day came a letter full of capitulation -- she had grown weary in a search for much needed cheerful reading. And to her I ^have^ sent a copy of The Country of the Pointed Firs.

It is a very great pleasure to me to know that you care for my verses. For many of them I am not re-

[*Page 5*]

sponsible -- there is an indication that something is coming, & then it comes, though I mentioned it is freakish in its coming.

I need not tell you of the pleasure it would give me to meet you. Do you not ever come to Philadelphia? And should you come there, will you not come the little nine miles into Jersey which would bring you here? You would like this place --

[*Page 6*]

all going into a rapidly-approaching book.

I think we must have met somewhere in the pastures, & from that I shall take hope that we may meet again -- here.

And will you think me too sudden if I say that I am affectionately yours

Margaret Janvier ?

(Which is the real name of Margaret Vandegrift.)

Notes

1896: While this date is uncertain, the letter seems to imply that Janvier writes fairly soon after the appearance as a book of Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

get forth: See the Bible, Psalm 88:8.

Weir Mitchell: Key to Correspondents. Mitchell had two sons in his first marriage. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Janvier, Margaret Thomson, 1844-1913. 2 letters; 1901 & [n.d.]. (113). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Frederick Mercer Hopkins

18 November 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick, Maine
[*End letterhead*]

Dear M^{r} Hopkins

Unfortunately I can at this moment remember the name of only one of M^{rs} Thaxter's* photographers -- Notman* of Boston, and his portrait of her is not very good. Mr. J. Appleton

Brown* the painter took the charming picture of her at her work table

[*Page 2*]

which was copied for the Letters volume, and of that or any of the portraits used you could get replicas of the photogravure plates from Messr. Houghton & Mifflin. Or, if you wish one that has not been used so much you had better write to Mrs. Roland Thaxter 3 Scott Street

[*Page 3*]

Cambridge, and I am sure that she will be very glad to help you. There were many amateur photographs made within the last ten years, but before that two or three most interesting and characteristic ones were taken. I am pretty sure that you would like one of these but, as I say, I cannot remember the

[*Page 4*]

photographers --

In haste, with kind regards

Yours truly

S. O. Jewett

Pray remind The Review of Reviews to do all it can for Mrs. Ward's* most noble and delightful story Sir George Tressady! I am so eager to have it recognized as it should be, here in America.

Notes

Thaxter: Celia Laighton Thaxter. Her youngest son, Roland, married Mabel Gray Freeman. Key to Correspondents.

Letters of Celia Thaxter (1895) was edited by Annie Adams Fields and Rose Lamb.

Notman: The Scottish-born Canadian photographer William Notman (1826-1891), based in Montreal, maintained studios in the Boston area from the 1880s. Wikipedia.

J. Appleton Brown: Key to Correspondents.

Ward's: Mary Augusta Ward's *Sir George Tressady* (1896). Key to Correspondents.

The American *Review of Reviews* gave attention to Ward's novel in December 1896. There was a mainly negative response reprinted from the *Fortnightly Review* (p. 737). Hamilton Mabie's review of the year in fiction offered qualified praise (p. 742). He was more generous to Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (p. 743).

This manuscript is held by Barnard College Archives and Special Collections, Overbury Collection (SC05), Autograph Letter Signed to Mr. Hopkins, South Berwick, Maine with photograph of Celia Thaxter, from Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1896. File — Box: 3, Folder: 86 Identifier: Series 1.

Included with the manuscript is a print of the Appleton Brown photo of Thaxter at her work table.

Sarah Orne Jewett to George Harrison Mifflin

148 Charles Street
Wednesday
[*18 November 1896*]*

Dear Mr. Mifflin

I understand someone who spoke to me through the telephone before* Mr. Garrison* did on Monday afternoon that it was the Pointed Firs ^not Authors & Friends^* that wouldn't be ready until Thursday -- which naturally frightened its author at the thought of [losing *corrected*] so many days sales for herself and her House. That was why

[*Page 2*]

I was so eager and anxious and asked for the special notice = but presently I found my mistake -- I am very sorry to have annoyed you about it -- to have made you think that I was displeased or believed that great care had not been taken about my book's interests. Pray be certain that I am very appreciative of all

[*Page 3*]

this at all times. I dare say that the telephoner forgot* which was my book & which Mrs. Fields's -- but I naturally took fright when I heard of the Pointed Firs & Thursday -- added to which there was a difficulty with one telephone and I could not get hold of the longer sentences -- Next morning a good bundle of Pointed Firs appeared to reassure me!

Is it not

[*Page 4*]

good that the books are going so well? -- there is still a good bit of time before Christmas too. I am perfectly delighted about Authors & Friends -- I should like you to see a really delightful notice which we happened to be shown in the Hartford Times this morning (a good book-buying neighbourhood!)

Yours sincerely always
S. O. Jewett

Notes

18 November 1896: Though the year is confirmed in the notes below, and this letter certainly was composed in November or possibly as late as 2 December, 18 November seems a probable date. Reviews of Fields's *Author and Friends* appeared as early as 28 November; see *Outlook* (28 November 1896, p. 989). It seems unlikely that *Authors and Friends* and *The Country of the*

Pointed Firs were released during the week of Thanksgiving (26 November).

A large "V" in blue pencil that may be a check mark appears in front of "Wednesday" in the date. The page has two holes punched in the right margin; they appear in the left margin on page two, partially obscuring the text.

before: It is not clear whether Jewett meant to underline this word. The line beneath it is very short.

Pointed Firs ... *Authors & Friends*: Reviews of Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* began to appear in early December 1896. Annie Adams Fields's *Authors and Friends* was announced in *The Book Buyer* in the fall of 1896 and advertised in October, but it seems clear it did not appear until near 1 December.

Why Jewett was so anxious about a day or two of delay in the availability of her new book is somewhat puzzling.

Mr. Garrison: Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

telephoner: It is not clear whether Jewett meant to underline this word. The line beneath it is very short.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Annie Adams Fields to Fred Holland Day

[*18 November 1896*]

My dear Mr. Day:*

Thank you for the beautiful alder berries which you left for me last evening!

I am sending you my book* with this note. I hope you will like it, in its way, half as much as I do these wild things which bring a memory of lovely haunts back to the chamber of imagination.

Most [truly *?*] yours
Annie Fields

148 Charles Street

Nov. 18th 1896.

Notes

Day: With this letter is an unstamped envelope addressed to Mr. F. H. Day, of Copland and Day, Cornhill.

book: Fields's most recent books in 1896 were *Authors and Friends* (1896) and *The Singing Shepherd* (1895).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the John Hay Library of Brown University, Ms.52.89.

Robert Collyer to Annie Adams Fields

The Strathmore
New York Nov 24th 1896

Dear Friend

I must delay no longer the thanks for Authors and Friends* which came a few days ago, and has been read so far at choice moments as you sip some fine wine. I took Longfellow in three glasses on the quiet afternoons and evenings and this afternoon I have taken my first of Emerson.* Master Thomas Fuller* writes in his note book may he be forgiven that in opening the holy book to read my morning portion I peeped overleaf to see if it was a long chapter. I peeped over leaf first now fearing Emerson might not hold out, and the last of my threesome delights might be somewhat like the way I would finish my milk 65 years ago so eager for more that my mother would say squeeze thy mug my lad{,} there is no more in the pitcher.

It is such a good book dear friend so far and will be I know to Finis. Just what no other woman or man could do. Written with sanity and tender retention but therefore whole and wholesome as heaven bread

"For love just puts her hand out in a dream
And straight outreaches all things."*

As you re-collect these memories

[*Page 2*]

this brings "thanks awful." I still dwell on my happy week by the sea. How good it is as the years wane and benignities that make life still as when they said to the master the last wine is the best.*

Tell Sister Sarah that I have not forgotten about the books but want to have them bound afresh and hope my binder may have them by New Years' at the latest { -- } meanwhile I send my love to you "firstly" as

Indeed yours
Robert Collyer

I am 73 Dec 8th and we are going to have tarts { -- } also a goodfellow has sent us Ch ___ ne* wherein to make good the good bishops saying{:} It is good to be merry in God.*

Notes

Authors and Friends: Fields's 1896 collection of memoir essays opened with a long piece on American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(1807-1882) and a somewhat shorter piece on Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882).

Emerson: Collyer omits many periods in this letter. I have supplied them wherever they seem necessary.

Fuller: British cleric and historian, Thomas Fuller (1608-1661). Collyer's quotation has not yet been located.

things: Collyer adapts from *Aurora Leigh* (1856) by British poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861):

> This love just puts its hand out in a dream
> And straight outreaches all things.

best: A reference to the Bible, John 2:10.

Ch ___ n: Presumably champagne.

merry in God: Collyer may refer to St. Thomas More's admonition to his wife in a letter of 1529: "I pray you, be merry in God with my children and your household, ..." However, More (1478-1535) did not serve as a bishop. A similar quotation is attributed to an English Protestant martyr, Laurence Saunders (1519-1555), but he also was never a bishop.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda Box 10: mss Fl 1-5637.

Louise Imogen Guiney to Annie Adams Fields

[*27 November 1896*]

My dear Lady Bountiful:*

I acknowledge your gift with delighted thanks. It is an exquisite book,* such as no one in our country can make but you, full of little sunny vistas, and of deep meanings, and of sanities of tone and theme: all worded in a sort of playful affectionate every-day type, with no spiritual italics to challenge the unelected eye. (And yet you sell! And long may you sell, and never, never be sold!) I went through each of the papers again. Do you put first, those on Emerson, Longfellow, and Mrs. Thaxter?* They seem to me perfect as any French pen could make them! You are good indeed to remember me, an underground, seldom-appearing creature, good at gratitudes, however, -- with such charming 'momentums of a friend.'

Besides post-officing, I am trying to write; to edit [a *?*] piece, correct, and copy no fewer than three Immortal Works. For this fell purpose I have bought,

[*Page 2*]

during the late summer, a typewriter, under which demon influence in Chaucerian phrase, I 'sweat and swink!'* When I get about again a bit, may I look on you and Miss Jewett, and on the matchless Orinda* maintaining her young dignity on the lowest shelf sou'-sou'-east! These are some of the things which last out to the mind's eye, when, for long, another newer world sets up good steady tasks for Hercu-Louise.* At any rate, it is an uncommonly fine November, and the mother of me is well, and taxes are 'laid,' and two very affable angora pussies express their intention of remaining with our Zoo. Good-night: and love you ever, from

Yours to Keep,
L. I. G.

Nov. 27th.
Auburndale, Massachusetts.

Notes

1896: The Huntington Library dates this letter to 1896. This choice is supported by the evidence that Fields has given Guiney a book she published in 1896. See notes below.

Lady Bountiful: After a character in *The Beaux' Strategem*, a comedy by Irish playwright, George Farquhar (1677-1707).

exquisite book: Fields's new title in 1896 was *Authors and Friends*, which includes chapters on each of the authors Guiney names. When Guiney thanks Fields for remembering her, it is not because Fields wrote about her in the book, but, presumably, for giving her the book.

Emerson, Longfellow, and Mrs. Thaxter: For Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Celia Thaxter, Key to Correspondents.

'sweat and swink': Guiney quotes from the Wakefield Master, *The Second Shepard's Play*, which may date from British author Geoffrey Chaucer's (c. 1340-1400) time in the fourteenth century. There a poor shepherd says:

> That such servants as I, that sweat and swink,
> Eat our bread full dry gives me reason to think.
> Wet and weary we sigh while our masters wink,
> Yet full late we come by our dinner and drink—

Orinda: Guiney refers to a book by Katherine Philips (1631/2 -1664), an Anglo-Welsh poet and translator. She is known as "the matchless Orinda," as a result of the publication of letters exchanged with Sir Charles Cotterell, *Letters from Orinda to Poliarchus* (1705). See Guiney to Fields of 1 March 1900, where she describes "the fat folio of Orinda's Poems on the low shelf near the window."

This book almost certainly was *Poems by the Most Deservedly Admired Mrs. Katherine Philips, the Matchless Orinda* (1665, 1710). It appears that at the time of this letter, only the two editions of this title, 1665 and 1710, were available. It appears, then, that Fields owned one of these.

Guiney later published *Katherine Philips, 'The Matchless Orinda': Selected Poems* (1904).

Hercu-Louise: Guiney connects her name with that of the hero of classical Greek legend, Hercules, who performed seven great labors.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection Box 26: mss FI 1575.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Tuesday
[*1 December 1896*]*

My dear Loulie

Your letter has been taking little [journies *corrected and so spelled*] and finds me here at last! Oh how sorry I am to know of your illness and how I wish that I could have done anything for you! If you do not get on to Milton* tomorrow please send me word so that

[*Page 2*]

I can come to see you -- A. F. has been very poorly with one of her bad colds -- going out one day and then getting housed again but I hope she is better now and you too -- (I am glad that my Pointed Firs* were there if I myself were not.) I wished to see you last week but I had two or three such busy days and I could not get time before

[*Page 3*]

I went home. I think you will be sure to "pick up" in Milton -- I have just been out there to Annie Russell's wedding, and it was so pleasant and the air so fresh & bright even if it was wintry. I shall be here for a week or so now, and I count upon seeing you.

Yours most affectionately,

S. O. J.

Notes

1896: This letter includes several notes in other hands, including a date: "12-1-96." This choice is supported by an associated envelope addressed to Dresel at 328 Beacon Street, Boston, postmarked 1 December 1896. That Jewett describes the current weather as wintry supports this date as well.

Milton: Scott Stoddart notes that Dresel's proposed destination is uncertain, either "the residential and manufacturing town in Norfolk county, eastern Massachusetts, known for being the home of Milton Academy, a private boy's school, or to Milton, Delaware, then a beach and resort town."

Pointed Firs: Jewett's 1896 novel, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, was released very close to 1 December.

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Scott Frederick Stoddart's transcription is in his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*,1988. New transcription and notes.

Samuel B. Haupt to Alexander R. McHenry

[*Begin letterhead*]
[*Two lines in red ink*]
ALL AGREEMENTS MADE CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES, FIRES, ACCIDENTS OR CAUSES BEYOND OUR CONTROL.
QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
[*remainder of letterhead in black ink, varying font sizes*]
S. B. Haupt, Vice President,
Duluth, Minn.
The Ironton Structural Steel Co.,
OFFICE, PROVIDENCE BUILDING.
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND TREASURER
29 BROADWAY
NEW YORK.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 1st, 1896 189*
[*End letterhead*]

My Dear Rude:--

It has only been within the last few days that I have been able to get any information about the land referred to in the enclosed letter.

I find it is located about four or five miles in a south westerly direction from Ironton on the south side of the St. Louis river and in the state of Wisconsin.* It is, as stated in letter to Mr. Orne,* about one and one-half miles from the St. Louis river and I understand the river to be navigable some distance above that point. As to the value of the land, it is difficult to determine upon a figure. At the present time it is thought the land might be worth $10.00 per acre, yet if it were put up at forced sale, it is a question whether it would bring over $2.50 per acre. On the other hand, I am informed that in boom times, land well situated in this locality sold as high as $70.00 per [care *intended* acre].

The above is the judgment of persons who are more or less familiar with real estate in and about Duluth.

Yours very truly,
S. H. Haupt

Notes

189: The full date has been typed in on a dotted line before this printed partial date.

See T. F. Upham to Mary Rice Jewett of 2 July 1895, for possibly related information. While that letter refers to buildings and this letter to land, these properties all are located near Duluth, MN.

Wisconsin: This location is a little confusing. Nicholas Roehrdanz of Duluth, MN, following the surveyor description given in Alexander R. McHenry, Jr. to Benjamin Orne of 19 August, places the land in Wisconsin, about 1.5 mi east of the border with Minnesota, southwest of Superior, WI and southeast of Jay Cooke State Park. This location is about 4.5 mi south of the St Louis River.

Ironton, MN, from which Haupt seems to write, is about 85 miles due west of this location, making it impossible that the described property would be 4-5 miles southwest of Ironton. Perhaps Haupt meant to name Superior, WI rather than Ironton.

Mr. Orne: See Alexander R. McHenry, Jr. to Benjamin Orne of 19 August. Benjamin Orne has not yet been identified, but a promising candidate is Benjamin Orne (1845-1912), son of James H. Orne, "a prominent carpet merchant," who is buried in Philadelphia with Roxalene Orne McHenry, mother of A.R. McHenry, Jr.

This typed letter is held by Historic New England, Jewett Family Papers, Correspondence: individual recipients; Other correspondence; Other correspondence, unidentified, undated; includes fragments, Box 13, Folder 62.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

148 Charles Street,
Thursday morning
[*Early December 1896*]*

My dear T.B.

I came to town yesterday and was going right to 59 Mount Vernon St.* with a copy of the Pointed Firs* under my arm when what should I find but <u>two</u> books* from you to me, and 'T.L.' read your note to say that you and Lilian and the Commodore were

[*Page 2*]

on your way to Lakewood!* I feel very humble about my one book (and its not being a poetry book either!) but I send it all the same with much love. And I thank you for your two beautiful copies of two beautiful poems: I shall read the Judith & Holofernes the first quiet hour I get, but I do not need to wait for anything more than

[*Page 3*]

the hurried look I have had to say that it is beautiful -- We didn't have the Apocrypha on the Hermione for nothing.

I read your Santo Domingo poem* with great delight the other day and it seemed to have bloomed wider and fairer than when I read it first. I shall always keep a great sentiment of affection for it. I remember the day when you told me the ~~first~~ last two

[*Page 4*]

lines on the hurricane deck. Perhaps (this is a proud thought) that other day when I banged across the deck in a high sea may have crystallized your floating thoughts and shocked them into ^imperishable^ form -- You may say that I was more likely to scatter them! and that the excitement passed before we went to Santo Domingo, but no matter. Give my love to Lily and to the Commodore. I hope

[*Page 5*]

that his cold will soon be well -- I have been waiting from week to week to find the right time to ask you all to come to South Berwick but it has been wet and dreary there and I did not wish to deepen your impression of banging blinds. A.F. has been spending a week with us -- and I counted upon the <u>Hermione</u> party when she was there, but she had to fly to town unexpectedly

[*Page 6*]

-- Tell the Commodore that I wonder if he hadn't better get a hat like the Haytian gentleman's as he passes through New York, if he thinks the shape of New York, being so long and narrow, would give room for a proper brim! --

A.F. sends her love and thanks with mine -- she has ^just^ got her new book* and you will be hearing from her.

Yours most affectionately
S. O. J.

Notes

November - December 1896: Jewett mentions two books that appeared late in 1896. The letter must have been composed before the death of Henry Pierce on 17 December, and probably before his stroke on 14 December. See notes below.

59 Mount Vernon St.: The Aldriches Boston home.

Pointed Firs: Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* was available in November 1896.

two books: As Jewett makes clear, one of the books Aldrich gave Jewett was *Judith and Holofernes: A Poem* (1896). Aldrich draws upon the Book of Judith, which Protestants place in the Apocrypha, as a non-canonical biblical text. The widow, Judith, delivers her Jewish people from their Assyrian conquerors by gaining the trust of General Holofernes and then beheading him.

Aldrich published *The Works of Thomas Bailey Aldrich* in 8 volumes, two of which were poetry, in 1896, but Jewett does not mention multiple volumes. Therefore, it seems more likely that he gave her *Friar Jerome's Beautiful Book*, a selection of earlier poems, which was issued in a limited edition of 250 copies.

Lakewood: In the 1890s, there was a popular resort at Lakewood, New Jersey, but it is not certain that this was their destination.

Santo Domingo poem: Aldrich's "Santo Domingo" recounts his first sighting of the capital of the Dominican Republic after "long days of angry sea and sky." As Jewett indicates, she is well aware of the occasion of this poem, the storm-tossed cruise of the Caribbean the previous winter, which included Jewett, Annie Fields, and the Aldriches as guests of Henry L. Pierce, "the Commodore," on his steam yacht, the *Hermione*. See Jewett to Aldrich of 18 June 1896.

Though Jewett was not aware of this as she wrote, Mr. Pierce was to suffer a stroke on 14 December. He died on 17 December 1896. Key to Correspondents.

Jewett's comments about the Haitian gentleman's hat are very likely a reference to their meeting on Valentine's Day 1896 with Ulises Hilarión Heureaux Leibert (1845-1899), President of the Dominican Republic, during their Caribbean cruise. His official portrait in Wikipedia shows him in a long narrow hat with feathers. See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896* by Jewett and Fields (Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2024, p. 60).

her new book: Annie Fields's new book in 1896 would have been *Authors and Friends*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney

148 Charles Street
Friday 11 December
[*1896*]*

Dear Mifs Guiney

Mrs Fields and I wish so much that you would come to dine with us tomorrow -- Saturday, at ^quarter before^ seven -- It is Mrs Fields's afternoon at home, so please come as early as you can! I am here only until the first of the week and we are to

[*Page 2*]

be quite by ourselves ^tomorrow evening^ -- save for Mifs Alice Longfellow* who has not been well and is staying with Mrs Fields for awhile. If you do come I shall be sure to ask you to play us a song!

Yours most truly
Sarah Orne Jewett

Notes

1896: Stoddart gives the 1891 date assigned this letter by a Colby College library curator. However, there is reason to believe that this letter was written at a later date, after Jewett and Guiney had entered into more intimate correspondence. By December of 1896, they had exchanged a number of letters. However, it is true that 11 December fell on a Friday in both 1891 and 1896.

Alice Longfellow: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Scott Frederick Stoddart's transcription appears in his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*. New transcription and notes.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich to Richard Watson Gilder

Boston, Dec. 12, 1896.

Dear Gilder, --

I suppose that Woodberry* has told you what a sad and anxious household we have here. Mr. Pierce came in from Milton a week ago last Thursday to pass three or four days with us, intending to go to New York on Tuesday. On Monday morning he had a stroke of paralysis, and has ever since been lying helpless in our house. His situation is very serious. For nearly twenty-five years he has been one of the most loved of guests at our fireside, and it takes all our fortitude to face the fact that that wise and gentle and noble heart has come to us for the last time. He is dimly conscious, but cannot speak; his right side is completely paralyzed. Should he, by a miracle, recover, he would never be able to walk, and his mind would be partly gone. I am sure you will be grieved to hear all this, for no one could be with him, even for so short a time as you were last summer, without being impressed by the sweetness and simplicity and integrity of his character. When I think of the false and cruel men who are let live, I don't understand the scheme

which blots out such lives as his. I would have given him ten or fifteen happy years more. In haste.

Yours sincerely,
T. B. A.

Notes

Woodberry: George E. Woodberry (1855-1930). Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Pierce: Henry L. Pierce died on 17 December. Wikipedia.

This transcription was published in *Thomas Bailey Aldrich* (1908) by Ferris Greenslet, pp. 195-6.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday 15 Dec[r]
1896

Dearest Annie

Such a dark day! and I dont like to think of your going out to the Conference* but I suppose a dear mouse* will prance there with all sails set -- I make this confusion of figures on purpose -- it is so pleasing to think of a mouse with sails !! Cousin Alice* is going today after a nice visit so far as I can say for I always enjoy her quiet serenity and dear old fashionedness, very much. Last night we "had the minister to tea" -- so all social opportunities [reached *corrected*]

[*Page 2*]

their height. Mr. & Mrs. Lewis* seemed to enjoy themselves too -- I was at the Bank awhile in the afternoon, and did some copying but beside running my errands to the post office &c that was all (All the little sparrows are out [in *or* on] the top of the porch looking in at me with their little bright eyes!)

Carrie went to Boston yesterday and she meant to go to see you. Thank you for what you did about Jennie's people.*

[*Page 3*]

I wont tell her the reports if she doesn't begin about them again -- unless they are good ones. ---- -- I suppose things are going on pretty much the same. I am so glad you didn't try to go yourself now -- for Everything you dont do at this season seems to be wise!! I do so want to keep you from getting more cold. Perhaps a little whiskey with your luncheon? --You thought it was very good for you last year, when the

[*Page 4*]

cold weather was setting in --

But I must write no more of this dull letter -- except to send my love. Mr. Howells's letter is quite touching and Alice Warren's* writing was like seeing a ghost -- Now she is coming back to play! and I am always glad to play with her.

Good bye darling Fuff
from your
Pin

Poor Marguerite Hall!* How touching how genuine her note is! There is such deep & true feeling in it.

Notes

Conference: Presumably, this is a meeting of the Associated Charities of Boston.

mouse: Annie Adams Fields.

Cousin Alice: Probably Alice Dunlap Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis: George Lothrop Lewis. Key to Correspondents.

Jennie's people: A Jennie is mentioned in a letter to Mary Rice Jewett and Carrie Jewett Eastman of 12 July 1894. That letter implies that Jennie is a household employee of Carrie and Ned Eastman. Key to Correspondents. It would seem likely that Jennie is an Irish immigrant, with relatives in difficulty in Boston, where Fields could provide them with some aid through Associated Charities.

Alice Warren's: This person has not been identified. However, Alice Amelia Bartlett Warren (1843-1912) moved in the same social circles as Fields and Jewett, being a friend of Henry James and Ellen Emerson, among other correspondents. See the introduction to *Little Women Abroad: The Alcott Sisters' Letters from Europe, 1870-1871* (2008), edited by Daniel Shealy, pp. lxii-lxiii.

Marguerite Hall: It seems likely this was Miss Marguerite Hall, who appears in the *Boston Musical Year Book* (v. 1) Season of 1883-84, in numerous vocal and piano performances. While an internet search finds her name in many performances in the United States and abroad through the early 20th century, it yields as yet no further information about her.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman and Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick
Friday morning
[*18 December 1896*]

My dear Lilian and T.B.

The sad news of our dear friends death* has just reached me by the morning paper and I cant tell whether I am most thankful for his going without any more suffering, or most grieved because he has gone. I shall miss him dreadfully, for fond as I have always been of him since I first knew him, all our living together at sea in this last year has brought

[*Page 2*]

me so much nearer to him, as it has brought me nearer to you both. And I do feel your great sorrow with you as I believe few of your friends can, so do take the love and sympathy I send with all my heart.

I shall of course come up to the funeral and I shall see you very soon. Please give my love to Bridget* and tell her how quick I thought

[*Page 3*]

of her when I first knew that dear Mr. Pierce had gone.

I cannot help thinking as I write of that dear old fashioned hymn:

-- Earth's transitory joys decay
Its pomps its pleasures pass away:
But the sweet memory of the good
Survives in the vicissitude --*

Dear Lily you cant think how glad I am to have had that last look sad as it made my heart. I wish that I were there to take a little care of you now when you must be so outworn with sorrow and watching. I send my

[*Page 4*]

love and many a thought today to you and dear T.B. and the boys* --

Always your affectionate
S.O.J.

Notes

friends death: As a note in another hand at the top of page 1 indicates, this letter refers to the 17 December 1896 death of Henry L. Pierce (see Key to Correspondents**),** a long-time friend and neighbor of the Aldrich family. He died after a stroke that occurred on December 14.

Bridget: An Aldrich family employee who sailed with the *Hermione* party.

vicissitude: Jewett quotes with slight variation the opening verse of "Earth's Transitory Things Decay" with verse by Sir John Bowring (1792-1872) and the tune, "Rothwell" composed by William Tans'ur.

Earth's transitory things decay,
Its pomps, its pleasures pass away;
But the sweet memory of the good
Survives in the vicissitude.

boys: The Aldriches' twin sons, Talbot and Charles were born in 1868.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

[*23 December 1896*]*

Dear fellow I tag you with a little box ---- you pays your Christmas and you takes your choice: but the little book has got to be Returned.

I liked these stories of Mr -- Howells's* so very much for certain reasons and Shaker association{s} of my own: and I was not sure that you had seen them. You might find an hour on your Christmas way, and this little Edinburgh reprint cant be

[*Page 2*]

impeding even for your Baggage . . . And I send love. I miss you so much which may seem quite foolish to you a Philadelphia person -- and I really long to have you come back --

I shall have much to tell you that I could not tell you yesterday about Mr. Pierce's great and simple funeral. The verses ~~about~~ 'I was a stranger* -- sick -- and in prison and ye came

[*Page 3*]

unto me' -- and 'the widow and fatherless and him that had no helper'* -- seemed to be new as they were read over that coffin -- and there was an irresistible wave of feeling that ran through, the church -- It was a most stately and grave company of men for the most part -- Roger Wolcott* looking most noble -- but so goes away that plain good old man, lonely and lovable, with some plaintive touch of childlikeness that made him timid in spite of

[*Page 4*]

his great impulses and iron will to do what he thought right --

Who should come yesterday at dark but Mr Howells who has been spending two days at the

Nortons* -- He has been ill and looks a little broken but was never so unforgettably himself. I wish you could have seen him -- and he you!

This winter they live at the Hotel Westminster down town in New York. Perhaps you have two minutes? And do see Ellen Mason* if you can and if she is there which indeed I do not know --

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

-- I have her a great deal in my heart these days. Good bye and Heaven bless you dear little girl. My heart follows you everywhere, and I shall keep Christmas with you

S. O. J.

[*Page 5*]

I pull open my letter to tell you a piece of good news dear -- You will hear that Mr Pierce has left the Art Museum and Harvard and the Massachusetts Genl Hospital $50.000 apiece: which is good -- But still better that, is to be residuary legatees and since the will was made some years ago the dear old lover of his city had grown much richer, and so the Art Museum & [Harvard *corrected*] are most

[*Page 6*]

likely to get seven or eight hundred thousand a piece! At least some one who is likely to know has just told me so !! And Radcliffe has a present of $20.000 -- thats still "The Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women" isn't it? My mind is bewildered with so much news to tell -- It is lucky that there was a letter all begun!

Notes

1896: This date is confirmed by the letter's reference to the death of Henry Lille Pierce. See notes below.

The folder containing this letter also contains a number of envelopes, but the contents have been shuffled. There is an envelope addressed to Mrs. Whitman at 256 S. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA, canceled in Boston on 23 December 1896. The back side has a December 1896 cancellation in Philadelphia. The day is obscured.

Howells's: William Dean Howells. It is not certain to which stories Jewett refers. Howells wrote about Shakers several times in his career. Near the time of this letter, Howells published *The Day of their Wedding* (1895) and *A Parting and a Meeting* (1896), both with Shaker characters.

stranger: See the Bible, Matthew 25.

no helper: Jewett seems to be quoting from the funeral sermon for Mr. Pierce, for this exact quotation does not appear in the King James Bible. Of course, it is consistent with the words of Jesus in Matthew 25, and the general idea appears often in the Bible, as in Psalms 72. Perhaps the closest to this wording is Job 20:12-16.

Roger Wolcott: Spouse of Edith Prescott Wolcott. Key to Correspondents.

Nortons: The family of Sara Norton. Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 277.

Charles Eliot Norton* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Shady Hill, 26 December, 1896.

My dear Miss Jewett, --

If outward circumstances are as pleasant for you as I trust they are you must have had a very happy Christmas, -- for what can make one happier than the assurance of the love of friends, and the knowledge of having contributed to the happiness of each one of them, known & unknown?

I have often thanked you silently for opening to me the

[*Page 2*]

Country of the pointed Firs,* and giving me a share in the sweetness and the charm which you brought to it and found in it. Your little book makes life pleasanter and better for all who read it.

And now this special gift, -- this exquisite old bronze dish -- which you have sent to me gives me a more than common pleasure. It touched my heart and my imagination alike, for it seemed as if, without spoken word, you have recognized my real sympathy

[*Page 3*]

with you, and not waiting for me to express it, had by this token shewn your kindly acceptance of it, -- and it seems also like one of the treasures, long an heirloom in the Country of the Pointed Firs, given to me as a memorial of the beauty of the land and of the simple virtues and joys and sorrows of those who live there.

I thank you for such a gift, delightful alike to the outward and the inner eye.

I hope that we may see you

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here before long, and I am looking forward with confident pleasure to your visit to us next summer at Ashfield.

I am gratefully & affectionately Yours
C. E. Norton.

I wish you a happy New Year.
Miss Jewett.

Notes

Norton: See Sara Norton in Key to Correspondents.

Firs: Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 166. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Hopkins Loring*

28th December
1896

[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick, Maine
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mrs Loring

I have been trying to remember the Consul's name* which I have forgotten though I remember him so well! but at last it occurs to me that I can direct my note to him officially! I send it to you for your

[*Page 2*]

sister with great pleasure.

-- [In *corrected*] Mandeville* we knew no one; we stayed at the hotel which I could hardly recommend for a long stay amusing and hospitable as we found it. In Mr. Froude's book about the West Indies* you will find a reference

[*Page 3*]

to some very comfortable lodgings where he stayed -- which we heard well recommended, and I believe that there are other places of the sort. I thought that Mandeville was delightful, especially as to its oranges!

We took many excursions in Jamaica but in all the time we were there we only slept ashore three nights, living on the yacht in the

[*Page 4*]

different harbours, so that I am not as good authority ^about houses^ as most travellers to that most enchanting island. I took a great fancy to Miss Duffy's lodgings at Bath* -- She was such a nice person and if Miss Hopkins* sees her, I should so like to be remembered to her. She went with us to the marvellous botanical gardens close by her quaint old house. With very fond regards

Yours ever
S. O. Jewett.

Notes

Loring: Probably this letter is addressed to Mary J. Hopkins Loring (1852-1914), spouse of Charles Greely Loring (1828-1902). Jewett was close friends with the family of Mr. Loring's brother, Caleb Loring. See Katharine Peabody Loring in Key to Correspondents.

In the winter of 1896, Jewett, Fields and others undertook a steam yacht tour of several Caribbean islands. Annie Fields kept a "Diary of a West Indian Island Tour." See *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896,* Sarah Orne Jewett Press (2024), available at the Internet Archive.

Consul's name: Presumably, Jewett is searching for the name of an American Consul in Jamaica. In Fields's *Diary of a West Indian Island Tour* Part 3, she mentions a Mr. Davis, who was then "consul" at Port Antonio. He was especially hospitable, and aided Fields's party in a tour of the Boston Fruit Company facilities near Port Antonio, Jamaica.

It is not yet clear what it meant to be a U.S. Consul in Jamaica in 1896. The United States did not established formal diplomatic relations with Jamaica until the island became independent in 1962.

Mandeville: For an account of time spent in Mandeville, Jamaica, in early 1896, see *A Caribbean Adventure: 1896.*

West Indies: British historian and author, James Anthony Froude (1818-1894) traveled in the West Indies in the 1880s and authored a reflective account in *The English in the West Indies, or The Bow of Ulysses* (1888), with several chapters on Jamaica.

Miss Duffy's lodgings at Bath: Fields's account of a stop with Lucretia Duffy appears in Part 3 of her diary. See the notes for this part for details about Miss Duffy and her house. Also in Part 3, Fields recounts their trip to the Bath Botanical Gardens.

Miss Hopkins: Mrs. Loring had an unmarried sister, Sarah Keturah Hopkins (1855-1914), and a half-sister, Eunice Hopkins (1870-1938).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney

28 December 1896

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.
Maine

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Louise

I thank you so much for my Book and for your most kind and dear remembrance. When I see you I shall tell you how much I like it, the book, I mean now; if it were your own I should read it first and write afterward. Which is what I mean to do with this exquisite little handful of (rose) leaves

[*Page 2*]

which comes from Alice Brown!* I wish you would tell her if you see her or if you write. I can wait to take the right hour (which one cannot always do with a book that deserves justice) for I have forgotten her Pinckney Street number and so I must wait to thank her also when I get

[*Page 3*]

back, presently, to town.

There are many things I should like to talk about with you and with her -- one is that this autumn I was off for a weeks driving and I went to the Shaker houses at Canterbury.* I had just been reading Sainte Beuve's Port Royal and I hardly knew the difference between Mère Angelique and Eldress Joanna Kaime with her

[*Page 4*]

white hood and stately old head.* New England was going to do without somethings and thought they were left behind, but human nature is too strong. So we have monasteries but we call them Shaker families! Oh there is much to tell about that day to which you would both listen and wish you had been with me.

I hope that I shall see you soon --

Yours affectionately,
Sarah O. Jewett

I hope that my Pointed Firs will remind you of some shoreward pleasures.

Notes

Alice Brown: The exclamation point here *may* be a colon.

Lucey says, "Four books by Alice Brown were published in 1896, among them *The Road to Castaly* which was dedicated to Louise Guiney. It would seem, however, from Miss Jewett's remark that Louise had sent her *The Rose of Hope*."

Lucey seems to believe that Guiney has sent Jewett a copy of Brown's book, but to me it appears likely that Brown, herself, has sent Jewett her book, but in that case, it is not known what book Guiney has sent.

Canterbury: Lucey notes: "The Shaker Village mentioned in this letter was located in Canterbury, New Hampshire, a small farming town about twelve miles north-east of Concord. Miss Jewett described a visit to the Canterbury Shakers in a letter to Annie Fields dated "Thursday night, 1897." (Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett, edited by Annie Fields, p. 134). Both letters, it seems, refer to the same visit, and if this is so the date of the letter to Annie Fields should read 1896." See Wikipedia.

old head: Wikipedia says that Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve (1804-1869,) "was a literary critic of French literature ... *Port-Royal* (1837–1859), probably Sainte-Beuve's masterpiece, is an exhaustive history of the Jansenist abbey of Port-Royal-des-Champs, near Paris. It not only influenced the historiography of religious belief, i.e., the method of such research, but also the philosophy of history and the history of esthetics."

According to Wikipedia, "Jacqueline-Marie-Angélique Arnauld, S.O. Cist. or Arnault, called La Mère Angélique (8 September 1591 in Paris - 6 August 1661 in Port-Royal-des-Champs), was Abbess of the Abbey of Port-Royal, which under her abbacy became a center of Jansenism."

This obituary of Eldress Joanna Kaime appeared in the 29 December 1899, *Granite State Free Press*:

> Our community was deeply saddened by the intelligence from East Canterbury of the death of Eldress Joanna Kaime, on Dec. 29, of paresis. As presiding Eldress in the ministry for nearly thirty years she has in this capacity alternated in her home between the society of Shakers at Enfield and that at East Canterbury. She was truly a most estimable woman, of exceeding loveliness and sweetness of character, true and genuine in all the relations of life. None knew her but to love her, not only in her own home, where the sweet unselfishness of her life was best known, but many friends and acquaintances outside the home circle could bear witness to the saintly presence, which diffused blessing and peace, to those privileged to come under the shadow of her loving, gentle spirit. Although she had been in failing health for two months no one apprehended the end so near, until the final summons told us she had entered into rest.

Pointed Firs: *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Dinand Library of Holy Cross College in the collection of materials of Louise Imogen Guiney, Box: SC007-

GUIN-004, Folder: 40. A transcription by William L. Lucey, S. J. appeared in "'We New Englanders': Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen Guiney." *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia* 70 (1959): 58-64.

The manuscript includes penciled marks and page numbers apparently added in another hand. There also are marks made by paper clips. New transcription from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Frederick Mercer Hopkins

29 December 1896
[*Begin letterhead in blue ink.*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

My dear Mr. Hopkins

I thank you for your kindness in sending me the Review of Reviews for December, and for all your friendliness in regard to the Pointed Firs* I am sure that you will like to know that it is doing capitally well as to sales.

I think very well of your

[*Page 2*]

suggestion in regard to Mrs. Thaxter's Among the Isles of Shoals.* I mean to speak to Mr. Mifflin* about it at once, and I should be very glad if you would tell him what you think about the matter. The House will soon settle upon next year's plans and some things are of course already under weigh.

With my best thanks and best New Year wishes.

Yours very sincerely
S. O. Jewett.

[*Page 3*]

I have in mind Mr. J. Appleton Brown and Mr. Ross Turner* for the illustrators, for they both know the Islands so well -- are charming artists ^especially Mr. Brown -- and were Mrs. Thaxter's intimate friends.

Notes

Firs: Richard Cary notes: "Hamilton W. Mabie's brief but laudatory critique of *The Country of the Pointed Firs* ('shows her true and delicate art in all its quiet and enduring charm') and a bust portrait of Miss Jewett appeared in the year-end review of worthy books in *Review of Reviews,* XIV (December 1896), 743.

Shoals: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents. Thaxter's book appeared in 1873. After her death, Jewett consulted with Houghton Mifflin regarding a new edition. Hopkins seems to have suggested including illustrations.

Mifflin: George Harrison Mifflin. Key to Correspondents.

Brown ... Turner: John Appleton Brown. Key to Correspondents.

Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1915) taught painting at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Massachusetts Normal Art School. He gave lessons to Celia Thaxter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

Tuesday 29th December [*1896*]
[*Begin letterhead*]
South Berwick.
Maine.
[*End letterhead*]

Dear Lilian

I have been meaning to send you the yacht photograph but I believe that I had better bring it with me as I am coming back in a few days now. I should hate to have it get bent and broken in the careless mails! I think of you a great deal and every day it seems to me that I miss Mr Pierce* more. Just

[*Page 2*]

[*intended* now *?*] we are all being reminded of our happy plans a year ago -- aren't we? -- how true it is that one never knows a friend until he is gone -- never knows him in the closest way -- it is as if we followed on a little way and caught something of the new life.

-- I wish so much to see you and T.B. again; next week is my winter week to go to Mrs. Cabot's* so that I shall be nearby, but I keep hoping that you will be well enough to go to New York for your New Year visit. I should

[*Page 3*]

so hate to have you break into that dear custom, and if you can only risk the journey I think it would be good for you. I remember just after my mother died A.F. persuaded me to go away with her for a time and it was a great pull at the time,

but I was much better for it and thanked her so much afterward . .

Dear Lily, there are so many things that I wish to say but cannot write. I am hoping to see you soon at any rate and I send my love and my new year blessing

Yours always. 'Sadie'

[*Page 4*]

I am so worried about A.F. sometimes. Her winter cold seems worse than usual this year and she does not seem a bit strong. I shall be so glad when January is over -- that is always a hard month for her.

Notes

Mr. Pierce: Henry L. Pierce died 17 December 1896.

Mrs. Cabot's: Susan Burley Howes Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).